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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you think the police are being too secretive in their investigation of crimes in the CNMI?

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Taking a pass on reining in government growth, President Barack Obama unveiled a record \$3.8 trillion election-year budget plan Monday.

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WORLD

Syrian rebels repelled a push Monday by government tanks into a central town held by forces fighting President Bashar Assad's regime in an 11-month conflict that looks increasingly like a civil war.

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LIFE & STYLE

Whitney Houston was underwater and apparently unconscious when she was pulled from a Beverly Hills hotel bathtub, and she had prescription drugs in her room, authorities said Monday.

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Largest haul of smuggled cigarettes

► Over 2,000 undeclared cartons and still counting

Further cuts for CNMI in Obama's proposed budget

► \$8.7M in CIP in FY 2013, down from \$9.5M in FY 2012

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

President Barack Obama's proposed \$3.8-trillion budget for fiscal year 2013 has further cuts in capital improvement project funding for the CNMI.

Obama's proposed \$575.3-million budget request to support U.S. insular areas gives \$8.7 million to the CNMI for CIPs, a reduction of some \$800,000 or 8.4 percent from the FY 2012 CIP funding of \$9.5 million.



Obama

Annual CIP funding for the CNMI has been on a steady drop in the past few years.

In FY 2010, it was \$11 million, before going down to \$10 million in FY 2011, then to \$9.5 million in FY 2012, and to \$8.7M in FY 2013.

Keith Aughenbaugh, systems accountant at the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, said yesterday that the reduction in the CNMI's

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Customs officer John Paul Sablan digs up some of the boxes containing potato chips or crackers and smuggled cigarettes from the Philippines at the Division of Customs Service's seaport office yesterday. At past 4pm yesterday, customs officers counted over 2,000 cartons of undeclared cigarettes and the number is expected to grow as inspections continue.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Customs agents seized yesterday over 2,000 cartons of smuggled cigarettes mostly hidden beneath potato chips or crackers in boxes shipped from the Philippines and were consigned to a wholesaler on Saipan, the largest cigarette haul in recent CNMI history.

Customs officer John Paul Sablan said the volume could further increase as customs agents were still inspecting the contents of the 20-foot container at the seaport at almost 4:30pm yesterday.

Most of the undeclared cigarettes were Philippine-made Philip Morris and Marlboro.

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Mafnas: Romero's body can be brought to PH only after forensic evaluations are done

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The family of bartender Emerita Relata Romero is planning to bring her remains to the Philippines for burial this weekend, but Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon Mafnas said "that is not going to happen."

In a news briefing on Monday, Mafnas said Romero's remains can only be flown to the Philippines until all the forensic evaluations are performed.

"Some of the procedures will be done here and some will be done off-island," the commissioner said.

Estrellita "Lhet" Relata told *Saipan Tribune* yester-

RELATED NEWS

Hundreds turn out for Romero's vigil
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day that they are unsure as to when the authorities are going to give them the go-signal to bring their sister Romero to Bulacan, Philippines.

Romero's husband and two daughters—ages 17 and 8 years old—are in the Philippines.

Mafnas urged people who were in Marpi, particularly at the Marianas Resort area and those who probably saw the suspect or the car that the suspect used, to come forward.

Mafnas also asked residents to report to the police or

Crime Stoppers if they believe that their family member is the killer.

He said if a person noticed that a family member has scratches or injuries on the body or arms, that individual should ask about the injuries and the person's whereabouts that morning of Feb. 5.

Romero was last seen boarding a green or blue tinted sedan around 3am on Feb. 5 in Garapan. FBI agents found her body two days later at the northernmost building of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

Mafnas has refused to release to the media the autopsy results conducted by Guam chief medical examiner Aurelio Espinola on Romero.

Regents want CFAO post reinstated. PAGE 3

'Many Chinese giving birth in CNMI trying to get around one child policy' PAGE 4

Local

Hundreds turn out for Romero's candlelight vigil

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Hundreds of community members from different backgrounds joined family and friends of the late Emerita "Emie" R. Romero in seeking justice and taking a stand against violence during a candlelight vigil on Monday for the bartender whose death remains under investigation.

Monday night's vigil, which also served as a fundraiser for Romero's two daughters in the Philippines, was held right outside Godfather's Bar in Garapan, where Romero worked for three years. The lifeless body of Romero, 37, was found in the northernmost part of the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque last Feb. 7 or two days after she went missing.

Several officers of the Department Public Safety, which has yet to make an arrest for the killing, were at the vigil to ease traffic flow for the individuals that took part in the vigil walk at about 7:30pm from Godfather's Bar to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan then back to the starting point.

Those in attendance turned up in droves wearing white shirts and holding candles despite the light rain, an act that demonstrated how people could come together to sympathize with the bereaved family and put across the important message that violence has no place for a small island community like Saipan.

Among the attendees was Garapan Elementary School second grade teacher Lori Terre, who taught Romero's daughter, Francine, when she was still on island.

"I think that this vigil is very moving," said Terre, who came with fellow teachers at GES. "It's great to see the



Hundreds of community members join family and friends of Emerita "Emie" R. Romero in seeking justice during a candlelight vigil outside Godfather's Bar, where the 37-year-old bartender used to work, on Monday night.

community come together for Emie and her kids. I pray that whoever did this is caught so that no one would go through the same thing again."

Natalie Cruz, who worked with Romero at GIG, said the success of the vigil goes to show that Romero will be "dearly missed." She said she is fervently praying for Romero's soul and for her killer to be arrested soon.

"Being a mother myself, I am particularly concerned for Emie's daughters. It's difficult to lose a mother. I am just so relieved to see that people have turned up for this vigil to pray for Emie and help her two kids," said Cruz, a mother of three.

Elli Aguilar, bass musician at Godfather's, said the vigil turnout showed people from all walks of life have come to express loathing to what happened to Romero and sympathy for her family.

"I just hope that animal responsible for this will be put behind bars soon. I am positive that it will happen, with the help of everyone," he added.

The outdoor vigil offered prayers from different religious groups and churches. Fr. Celso Magbanua Jr. of Kristo Rai parish led the convoy of walkers around the block while different pastors offered messages of hope and encouragement.

"The brutal killing of Emie is certainly not permitted in a free and democratic place like Saipan," said Saipan Community Church pastor Roger Abe. "The murderer is still at large but I hope that he will be

brought to the bar of justice."

Abe said Monday's vigil was a chance for the community to show "remarkable support and sympathy" to Romero's family. "Emie may be lifeless but her spirit and soul is resting in the hands of God. We have hope and life after death," he added.

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho urged the community to come together and join the Neighborhood Watch Task Force following Romero's death and the case of the Luhk sisters, who have been missing for several months now.

"We need to work together on this thing that's unacceptable in our community," said Camacho. "We need to establish a healthy and safe place to live."

Several performing groups such as the Olomwaay Band and the Umang

Glee Club sang inspirational songs that moved some members of the audience, including Romero's family, to tears.

"We're very sad for you to leave us this way. We hope that justice will be served to you," said Romero's brother, Eduardo Relata, as he wiped away his tears.

The vigil was organized by the Godfather's management and staff, and owners Scott Dottino and Ron Biggers thanked the entire community for their support.

"There are still so many good people around. We all need to stick together," said Dottino, who verbally expressed his support to Camacho and his Neighborhood Watch initiative. He added, "Be careful because this animal is still out there. We need to watch out for everybody."

Biggers, in an interview, described the vigil crowd as "overwhelming." "One thing that it showed us is that the love for Emie really made our family at Godfather's a lot bigger tonight. It brought the community together in a way that we're all going to try to start to watch out for each other and make our community a little safer," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Edz Villagomez, who was actively involved with the vigil preparations, said the outpouring of support from the community was beyond their expectations.

"We are grateful for everyone who came here to show their support and offer help for our beloved Ate Emie. We are all united in our desire to seek justice for her, and we did this vigil especially for her children," she said.

Monday's vigil sold close to 400 candles and collected a total of \$1,805 in donations. Online donations were also received in the amount of \$855. All proceeds will go to the two daughters of Romero in the Philippines.

Witness testifies in trial of driver of truck where a boy fell and died

One of the occupants of a pickup truck where a 15-year-old boy fell from the back last August and subsequently died, testified yesterday in the ongoing jury trial in Superior Court of the driver who is facing nine charges.

The government's witness is the first cousin of defendant Vincent Felix Lieto Fitial. The witness is also the uncle of the victim, Wilben Herman Lieto.

The witness testified how Lieto fell from the truck on Aug. 31, 2011 on a dirt road in Tanapag.

Lieto died the following day due to head injuries.

The witness said there were three of them, including Lieto, in the back of the truck driven by Fitial.

The group had just attended a family member's funeral at Tanapag Cemetery. They were on their way home when the accident happened.

The witness estimated that the truck was traveling at least 20 miles per hour. He said Fitial avoided two potholes on the road.

The witness said Lieto was spitting out betelnut and fell down after the

truck hit the second pothole.

"I saw him rolling toward the grass," he said, adding that he shouted at Fitial to stop the vehicle.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, assistant attorney general Shelli Neal was still conducting direct examination on the witness.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll is assisting Neal for the prosecution. Defense attorneys Michael Evangelista and Viola Alepuyo are counsels for the 21-year-old Fitial.

The Office of the Attorney General filed nine charges, including homicide by vehicle, against Fitial.

Fitial is the uncle of the deceased boy.

Evangelista earlier stated that this is a plain and simple unfortunate accident that occurred mere moments after the family buried one of their own.

In fact, Evangelista said, this accident occurred while the family was in the process of leaving the cemetery. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

230 courses this spring semester at NMC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A total of 230 courses are now being offered at the Northern Marianas College, according to its president Sharon Y. Hart.

In her report to the Board of Regents yesterday, she disclosed that for Spring 2012 academic term, there are a total of 1,158 full-time students enrolled at the college who are taking various programs and courses.

As of Feb. 2, she reported that 230 courses are running out of the 255 offered. This translates to about 90 percent that are running while 10 percent of the courses were cancelled.

According to Hart, NMC also recorded a total of 54 students enrolled in four courses during the 2011 intersession. Of the figure, 93 percent were enrolled in only one course while 89 percent of students

enrolled passed their courses. She said three students in the intersession have failed, one withdrew, and one was graded incomplete for the course.

Meantime, Hart disclosed that the college has collected \$21,800 in total international students fee which was implemented this spring semester. This fee, she explained, was assessed on students enrolled with an "F" and "M" visa or status.

"109 students were assessed the fee and the college processed fee cancellations for 55 students. As of Jan. 26, the college collected \$21,800 in total international students fee," she told the board yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that international students pay \$190 per credit in their tuition, excluding flat fees imposed by the college on all its enrollees. For resident students, they pay \$95 per credit plus the mandat-

ed flat fee. With the imposition of new fee for them, foreign students are now being charged additional \$200 per semester for the college to meet the demands of the services they need from the institution.

Hart also announced yesterday the hiring of one full-time faculty from Florida and the departure of four full-time faculty members, who are from language and humanities, business department, and from the math department.

Among the college newly hires were the dean of administration, new instructor for social science and fine arts, two counselors for College Access Challenge Grant, a program manager, database administrator, and an instructor for the Adult Basic Education.

NMC, she said, is also looking for a bookstore manager, director of distance learning, and an information technology director before end of the month.

Regents want CFAO post reinstated

»Programs, finance and budget committees revived

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College approved yesterday the revival of its programs committee and finance and budget panel during its regular meeting where they also indicated their desire

to reinstate the chief financial administrative officer position which was recently eliminated by college management.

Board chair Juan T. Lizama appointed regent Frank Rabauliman to head the finance and budget committee, while vice chair Elaine Orilla was named head of the programs committee of the board. The two were given the authority to select their members from the regents, both voting and honorary.

Lizama, during the deliberation, emphasized the importance of these committees in addressing the remaining concerns of the college accreditation.

Yesterday was the first meeting conducted by the board after receiving the accreditation commission's decision that placed NMC on continued probation status early this month.

It has until October this year to address the remaining deficiencies cited in the recommendation.

From 11 deficiencies, NMC successfully resolved eight of them. The institution is now addressing three remaining concerns in addition to two new recommendations pertaining to the lack of CFAO and certain policies in place.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, meantime, expressed support on the revival of the committees citing the help it could bring to the management in addressing its fiscal and budget concerns.

Besides the revival of the committees, Lizama expressed in the beginning of the meeting

the board's support in reinstating the CFAO position. However, the formal voting for this item and the hiring of a qualified candidate did not take place yesterday as the board voted to recess the meeting to Thursday.

"Based on my discussion with the trustees [board regents], there's a need to revive that CFAO position and that will be the position of the board," said Lizama, pointing the specific requirements of accreditation commission to have someone in the position.

Judge denies bid to admit into evidence defendant's prior convictions

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja yesterday denied the government's motion to admit into evidence the eight prior convictions of a man accused of beating up and robbing a 65-year-old masseur.

In an 11-page order, Naraja ruled, however, that if suspect Nestor C. Taitano chooses to testify at trial, he will then make a ruling at that time on the government's motion as to the admissibility of the same evidence.

"Because defendant may choose not to testify at trial, a ruling on the admissibility of defendant's prior convictions under Rule 609 is premature at this time," Naraja said.

Taitano and Joshua Basaliso were arrested in April 2011 for the alleged beating and robbing of Guoxi Liang, a Chinese national, outside his house in San Antonio. Liang sustained multiple injuries in

the face and head. His right eye had massive swelling.

Basaliso entered a plea agreement with the government. The trial of Taitano is currently set for Feb. 21, 2012. The Office of the Attorney General charged him with robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The government through assistant attorney general Eileen E. Wisor filed a motion to admit into evidence Taitano's eight prior convictions and two charges dismissed per plea agreements.

Taitano, through assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, opposed the motion.

In his order denying in part the motion, Naraja said it appears that the government wishes to introduce the prior acts as signature crimes because they all "were committed with the help of a co-conspirator and involve crimes of theft and /or violent assault and battery just like the of-

fenses charged.

Naraja said it is clear that Taitano's prior convictions and the instant case do not represent signature crimes.

Naraja said the mere fact that the prior convictions include acts of "theft" and "vio-

lent assault and battery" is far too general to constitute signature crimes.

The government, the judge pointed out, failed to prove that the prior convictions are sufficiently similar to the offenses charged; thus, they are not rel-

evant as to intent, motive, plan or preparation.

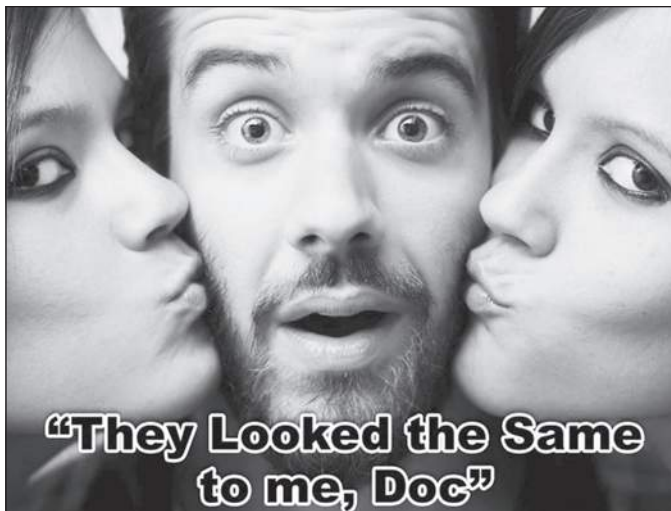
Naraja said it is difficult to imagine how any juror could render a fair verdict on the merits of the case after gaining insight into Taitano's expansive criminal history of vio-

lence and thievery.

Naraja, however, cited the Commonwealth Rules of Evidence 609 that permits the admissibility of prior convictions, under certain conditions, for the purpose of attacking the credibility of a witness.

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'Many Chinese giving birth in CNMI trying to get around one child policy'

» Websites remove some information about CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Many tourists from mainland China who come to the CNMI to give birth to U.S. citizen children wanted to get around the Chinese government's "one child policy," said one of the individuals who are helping these "birth tourists" through translation services for a fee averaging \$30 an hour.

At the same time, on the day that at least three websites were published as advertising or marketing the CNMI as a good destination to give birth to U.S.

citizen children, two of them removed from their pages some information about the CNMI.

One of the sites, www.saipan-baby.com, removed the contact numbers in the CNMI but retained the contact numbers for China and Los Angeles.

The second site, www.pacificweekly.net removed on its page the link to www.saipanbb.com.

"Most of the pregnant Chinese who come here give birth to their second child, not first child. Depending on how rich they are, they stay at a three-

bedroom hotel room or apartment, or just one bedroom apartment," the translator told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said because children born here are U.S. citizens, the birth tourists coming here won't have two Chinese children when they go back to their country "so they are not violating the one child policy."

"But more important, they want their children to be able to leave China when they grow older and they don't want their children to be communists. They said they can't change the

communist system but they can have their children live outside China later on. When the children reach a certain age they can bring their parents to the U.S. too," he said.

He added that most if not all of the birth tourists are rich because they could afford to pay all the hospital bills all at once so they could get their newborn's birth certificate, rent an apartment or hotel room on Saipan for two to three months or more, pay for utilities, rent a car, buy food and other consumer goods, plus pay other services rendered by individuals or agencies specializing in helping birth moth-

ers such as translation, looking for apartment rentals and visiting the hospital.

The translator also said that lately, the CNMI has seen an increase in birth tourists from small cities and provinces in China.

"Before, they were all from Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangdong. But now, they also come from small cities like Zibo in Shandong Province," he said.

The websites, in Chinese language, show pictures of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s facilities on Saipan where clients from China are supposed to give birth, photos of

some Saipan apartments/housing rentals where clients could stay, Saipan tourist spots, links to CNMI and federal agencies' websites, and a list of benefits of having a U.S. citizen baby, among other articles.

The websites also list the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and birthright citizenship as reasons to have babies in the CNMI, whose capital is Saipan.

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees U.S. citizenship to those born on its territory, provided the person is "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States.

OAG lowers outstanding OPA recommendations from 11 to 9

The Office of the Attorney General resolved two outstanding audit recommendations this month in its effort to improve compliance with recommendations from the Office of the Public Auditor. The closure of these two recommendations brought the office's number of outstanding recommendations, all of which were issued between April 23, 1997 and Aug. 6, 2003, down from 11 to nine. This reduced the office's amount of outstanding recommendations by 18 percent.

To address the backlog, the OAG has been meeting with OPA to gather more information and to create a plan to address the recommendations in a timely and efficient manner. The two offices agreed that focus should first be on those recommendations that require the least investigation and can be handled the most expediently.

The first recommendation examined was issued on Nov. 5, 2002, and concerned long-

distance telephone charges at the Department of Labor and Immigration. Attorney General Edward Buckingham had addressed this recommendation in December 2009 by declaring the issue moot, due to the federalization of immigration and the closure of the office at issue. However, due to the OAG's failure to provide its opinion in writing to OPA, the issue had been classified as "resolved-delinquent." The OAG submitted a written opinion to OPA in

February 2012 and the status was changed to "closed."

The second outstanding recommendation stemmed from an audit conducted in 1997 that revealed financial improprieties of a former Finance secretary. In 2001, the secretary had been sentenced to 33 months of federal prison and ordered to pay \$56,461.98 in restitution. There was also discussion of bringing a civil case against the secretary to obtain the remainder of funds that had

been misappropriated. OPA's recommendation instructed the OAG to provide copies of the judgment to OPA if a case was brought and won. The OAG reviewed the benefits of bringing a civil case against the secretary, but found that, due to the secretary's limited assets and the growing obligation of his restitution payment (due to interest), the Commonwealth would be unlikely to ever collect a judgment. For this reason, the OAG does not consider it to be a beneficial use of the Commonwealth's

resources to pursue this civil action. The OAG stated this in a letter addressed to OPA and OPA has closed this report insofar as it applies to the OAG.

The OAG is pleased with the progress that has been made since renewing its focus on bringing the office into compliance with OPA recommendations. However, this is a long-term project and some of the recommendations will require complex research and investigation that may take more time to resolve than others. (*Office of the Attorney General*)

LARGEST

From Page 1

If these illegal contrabands were not intercepted, they could have been at least \$40,000 in lost income tax for the CNMI government.

Customs said each carton of cigarettes is taxed at least \$20.

Each carton has 10 packs, and each pack has 20 sticks of cigarettes.

The shipment from the Philippines arrived on Saipan at around 5am on Sunday. Sablan said the 20-foot container was brought to the customs inspection area at the seaport around 3:40pm on Monday, and the inspection was scheduled for yesterday at around 8:30am.

Sablan said the only items declared in the invoice were potato chips (or crackers), body soap, toothpaste, condiments such as soy sauce, and women's

sanitary napkins.

"There was no declaration of cigarettes," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the seaport's customs area.

Sablan said customs officers started noticing that the boxes did not match the actual products in them and when they dug deeper into the first few boxes, they started seeing cigarettes beneath mostly Marty's Cracklin chips.

"That raised the flag so we had to make a 100 percent inspection," said Sablan, who has been with the CNMI Divisions of Customs Services for 13 years. "This is the largest number of illegal cigarettes we came across in the years I've been here and I haven't heard anything more than that."

In 2008, Customs seized over 350 cartons of illegal cigarettes from China.

At around 11am yesterday, customs agents counted over 500 cartons of smuggled cigarettes. A

few hours later, the number went up to over 900 cartons.

By 4pm, the number went up to over 2,000 and still counting.

Sablan said the number dramatically went up because some of the boxes in the deeper end of the 20-foot container were full of undeclared cigarettes, and were no longer mixed with food items such as potato chips.

Legal actions

Customs Director Jesus Muna, in a separate interview, said the division is now consulting with the Office of the Attorney General on the best action to take against the owner of the smuggled cigarettes which include Philippine-made Philip Morris and Marlboro.

Samples of Philip Morris and Marlboro are labeled "not for export" and "for domestic use only," meaning they're supposed to be sold only in the Philippines.

The Customs director, more-

over, said there was really intent to conceal the cigarettes and not pay taxes to the CNMI government.

Muna said the contents of the container were consigned or addressed to Pacific Jun Corp., a wholesaler on Saipan.

Sablan said Customs could impose up to \$20,000 fine against the company, or if the matter goes to court and the case is won by the government, it could mean prison time of up to five years, or both.

Right now, the smuggled cigarettes would be kept as evidence should the matter goes to court. After that, they will be incinerated, said Sablan.

The smuggled cigarettes, if they weren't intercepted, could also harm businesses in the CNMI that are following the law, Sablan added.

For example, a business that does not pay taxes for cigarettes could sell a pack for \$2.50 or \$3,

which is almost the tax paid by legitimate businesses for every pack of cigarettes. If customers buy these illegal products, then the legitimate businesses could lose revenue because they sell their products at a higher price taking into consideration the taxes they pay.

'Restore 80 hours'

Rep. Ray Basa (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) separately lauded the Customs Services Division for being able to intercept the illegal cigarettes, despite work hour cuts.

Customs is now included in the 64-hour workweek, from the normal 80 hours because of the government's financial conditions.

But Basa, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Yumul said the critical function of Customs should be reason enough for the administration to consider restoring 80

hours for customs inspectors.

Yumul said importers could now be testing the CNMI's vulnerability, and they may be trying to sneak into the islands illegal products knowing that Customs has limited work hours and is understaffed.

"This is serious. Bringing in illegal items to the CNMI is an attack on our economy, our border. It will be best if our Customs Division is restored to 80 work hours," Yumul added.

Broken X-ray van

Besides limited work hours and understaffing, Customs' X-ray van is also currently broken.

Sablan said it could cost \$30,000 to \$50,000 to repair the broken X-ray van.

Without this X-ray van, customs officers slave to manually inspect cargo at the seaport, which is time consuming and requires more inspectors.

FURTHER

From Page 1

CIP funding for FY 2013 is because of performance issues.

He said the CNMI's "performance" in complying with mandates is a bit lower than those shown by other territories, resulting in a decrease in funding.

American Samoa is scheduled to receive \$9.9 million in CIP funding in FY 2013, while Guam will get \$6.1 million. The U.S. Virgin Islands will get \$2.9 million.

The current mandatory appropriations of \$27.7 million will continue to be used to undertake CIPs which the Office of Insular Affairs said "create economic opportunity in U.S. territories and improve the quality of life in those communities."

It's not yet known, however, whether the CNMI's "speed of spending" previously given CIP money also caused the further decrease in the proposed funding for 2013.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (R-Saipan) said yesterday the CNMI getting less money for CIP could also be a result of an across-the-board or proportionate reduction in funding because of the nation's financial problems, and not because the CNMI has been slow in spending CIP money.

"We need improvements in spending CIP money as quickly as possible. But you also have to note that although we want to start projects early, there are a lot of federal requirements to follow. You have the environment rules for reed warblers, for

example, and you can't just start your construction without complying with these federal regulations. That's causing a delay," he said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the CNMI CIP Office has yet to receive official notification of the new budget.

"Once it is received, the administration will be able to review its funding allocations to see what sources were subject to reductions," he added.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) had said if a territory has a substantial backlog of CIP funds, Interior may withhold or redistribute that territory's CIP money for the current fiscal year among the other eligible recipient territories.

He had said a substantial backlog is defined as spending less than 50 cents of every

\$1 appropriated. Sablan said the CNMI is only spending 32 cents of every \$1 it gets in CIP money.

'Tough choices'

Obama unveiled on Monday his FY 2013 budget request of \$3.8 trillion that increases taxes on the rich and spends new money on infrastructure and education.

"We built this budget around the idea that our country has always done best when everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share and everyone plays by the same rules," Obama said in his budget message.

Obama proposed a \$575.3-million budget for the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, which has jurisdiction over insular areas such as the CNMI and Guam.

A statement from OIA said the budget request includes \$88 million in current appropriations and \$487.3 million in permanent and indefinite appropriations for fiscal payments mandated by law to U.S. territories and Freely Associated States.

OIA said the president's budget reflects tough budget choices, cutting costs in order to fund the highest priority requirements, and advancing efforts to shrink federal spending while being mindful of ongoing commitments.

Interior assistant secretary for insular areas Tony Babauta said the 2013 budget request "demonstrates President Obama's continued commitment to the well-being of the U.S. insular areas while remaining fiscally disciplined."

"The budget proposes strategic investments as we actively pursue economic development initiatives to encourage private sector development in insular areas," he said.

The budget request includes \$60.3 million for programs that will address a variety of technical assistance and facilities maintenance programs in the U.S.-affiliated island communities, including Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the CNMI.

It also makes noteworthy investments of \$5.4 million to pursue increased employment through sustainable and renewable energy strategies, improve the quality and quantity of economic data from the territories, and to support improvements in insular area government management.

MLK poster-making contest winners hailed



CLARISSA V. DAVID

African-American Cultural Preservation Committee president Joe Hill, right, and secretary Elena Delos Santos, left, pose with the winners for the Martin Luther King Jr. poster making contest winners Jesica Andebor, Edrian David, and Ericho David outside the American Memorial Park on Monday.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The African-American Cultural Preservation Committee on Saipan presented on Monday the prizes for the winners of the poster-making contest in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. day last month.

AACPC president Joe Hill and secretary Elena Delos Santos awarded \$50 to first place winner Jesica Andebor, \$35 to second placer Edrian David, and \$20 to third place winner Ericho David outside the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

A sixth grader at Koblerville Elementary School, Andebor wrote in her winning poster excerpts from King's famous "I Have A Dream" speech. Meanwhile, Edrian David is a third grader at Garapan Elementary

School and wrote in his placard "I have a dream and it came true" while his brother, second grader Ericho David wrote "Equality for all."

Andebor said in an interview that she didn't know about King until after the MLK celebration organized by AACPC last Jan. 16 at the American Memorial Park, which featured world-renowned civil rights advocate Dr. Amos C. Brown who was a student of King.

"He was a good person," Andebor told *Saipan Tribune*. "Before he was born, people were divided as blacks and whites. When he realized that it wasn't fair, he did everything he could to change that. After his speech, everything started to change and there was no more division between blacks and whites. Everything was one."

Andebor said she plans to use her prize money when she joins her group, the Umang Glee Club, to defend their title next month at the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

Hill, for his part, said this year's submissions and entries were "fantastic" and "really hit the point."

"We appreciate the participation of the kids. They really turned out this year," he said.

According to Hill, the participation among the youth demonstrates improved awareness on their part regarding the civil rights movement, which is why their group will continue the poster-making contest in their annual MLK celebration.

"I would like to thank everyone for their participation and support this year... We look forward to next year," he added.

2012 Marianas March Against Cancer kicks off

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer kicked off yesterday with Delta Air Lines coming in as the first title sponsor for the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association slated for April 27 to 28, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao.

Title sponsorship is the highest sponsorship level for the MMAC, which is now on its tenth year. It is given to companies that give cash or in-kind donations amounting to \$3,000 or more.

Representatives of Delta Air Lines, which has been a consistent title sponsor of the annual event, presented two round trip tickets to anywhere in the U.S. and a \$300 travel voucher to MMAC committee members and CCA officials in a brief ceremony at their check-in counter at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport yesterday morning.

"We place a lot of value in community events that support the public in general," Delta Air Lines sales and marketing repre-

sentative Chris Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune*. "Cancer is a big cause that we support not only locally but also worldwide."

Concepcion, who also volunteers his time with the MMAC committee, urged the community to support the event to help fight this deadly disease. He also called on all cancer survivors and their families to come out and serve as an inspiration to many who have experienced or are experiencing the battle against cancer.

CCA president Bud White said, "We need all the support we can get and I like it when companies like Delta come in and show that they are interested in supporting MMAC and also CCA."

According to White, the funds they raise go to CCA, which spends it to support survivors and educate the public about early detection. He is hopeful that this year's event will be able to raise over \$100,000.

"I'm an optimist and I think we can do that," he added.

Catherine Attao-Toves, 2012 MMAC overall committee chair, said that their focus this year is to put emphasis on the participating teams. She disclosed that

at least 10 teams have already confirmed participation but they are looking at getting some 15 teams to help in the event that serves as an opportunity to celebrate cancer survivors, remember those who have lost the fight, and raise money and awareness for everyone affected by cancer.

"We really want to give exposure to the teams because they're the ones that put a lot of effort to make this a successful event," she said.

To reach their goal, Attao-Toves is inviting government agencies, private companies, non-profit organizations, schools, and families to form a team and join in their cancer fundraising and awareness efforts.

"We all have a relative, friend or co-worker who has been touched by cancer so please join our efforts in raising badly needed funds for the battle against cancer. With this being our tenth year anniversary, we are hoping to set a record in the amount of money raised," she said.

For more information, contact Attao-Toves at 285-1828 or email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The Department of the Navy (Navy) announces its intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for a Live-Fire Training Range Complex (LFTRC) on Guam to Support the Guam Military Relocation.

The SEIS will evaluate the potential environmental consequences that may result from construction and operation of a live-fire training range complex and associated infrastructure on Guam to support the Guam Military Relocation. The SEIS supplements the Final EIS for the "Guam and CNMI Military Relocation; Relocating Marines from Okinawa, Visiting Aircraft Carrier Berthing, and Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force" dated July 2010. The Record of Decision for the Final EIS was signed on September 20, 2010, and published in the Federal Register on September 30, 2010 (Volume 75, Number 189, Page 60438). The SEIS is being prepared for the limited purpose of supplementing the 2010 Final EIS.

The proposed action that will be analyzed in the SEIS is to construct and operate a live-fire training range complex on Guam. The complex is intended to allow for the simultaneous use of all firing ranges to support individual service member training on Guam for the relocated Marines. The Navy has preliminarily identified five alternatives for the proposed action: two adjacent to Route 15/Andersen South, and three at the Naval Magazine (NAVMAG). The SEIS will also consider the No Action Alternative.

The Navy will host public open-house scoping meetings on Guam to obtain comments on the project scope and identify specific environmental concerns or topics for consideration in the SEIS. The public is encouraged to attend the open-house scoping meetings, which will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

- Saturday, March 17, 2012, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, University of Guam Field House, Mangilao,
- Monday, March 19, 2012, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Southern High School, Santa Rita,
- Tuesday, March 20, 2012, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Yigo Gymnasium, Yigo.

Informational posters will be displayed and subject matter experts will be available during the open-house to discuss the proposed action, to answer questions, and to accept comments from the public. Written comments may be submitted at the scoping meetings. A Chamorro interpreter will be available. Interested agencies, individuals, and groups unable to attend the scoping open house are encouraged to submit comments by April 6, 2012. Mailed comments should be postmarked no later than April 6, 2012, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) to ensure they are considered.

Mail comments to : Joint Guam Program Office Forward
P.O. 153246
Santa Rita, Guam 96915

An electronic comment form can also be obtained at http://bit.ly/Guam_LFTRC_SEIS and submitted via email. Government agencies, private-sector organizations, the general public, and other interested parties are encouraged to provide written comments for consideration in the Draft SEIS. The Navy will consider all comments received as they develop the Draft SEIS.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-006, REV. #1

PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE FOR POWER PLANT 1 & 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is resoliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project Management to include Design and Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish all labor, material and logistics associated with the Project Management Services including Design and Onsite Construction Management for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project. Tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies (including US EPA and/or US DOT). It is preferred that the contractor have the in-house capability and qualifications to perform all the functions required (i.e. - Project management to include Design and Construction Management services) and not subcontract any part to third party vendors.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8-inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8-inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe piggings, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes. Design engineers are required to obtain the relevant licenses in CNMI, as per local professional licensing rules and regulations, details of which are available on the webpage, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Court. The project is funded primarily by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs.

The Revised Scope-of-Work (SOW) will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) (CHST-Chamorro Standard Time), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays. All other documentation can be downloaded from the website, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

The response to this RFP must be received with the title **"PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE"** and **shall only be sent** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via e-mail to manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail to mika.muna@cucgov.org no later than **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** local time and the equivalent time of **Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. Late submissions and other means of submission will not be considered. A return receipt for the email must be requested and received by the proposer to ensure that the email transmission has been received by the deadline, by CUC.

All inquiries and clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM CHST**, and the equivalent time of Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org; and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation. All interested parties including those who have participated in the recently closed RFP are requested to also register through the website - <http://cuccnmi.net/> or e-mailing their request to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail mika.muna@cucgov.org, no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM (CHST)** local time or the equivalent time of **Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. CUC requires all the proposers to send their questions in writing so that the responses can also be made available to all the interested vendors, well in time.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposer, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Mariners urged to exercise caution in high surf conditions

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Coast Guard Sector Guam warns boaters and beach goers to exercise caution in all waters across Micronesia through the week. The National Weather Service has issued a high surf and small craft advisory for all coastal waters surrounding Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Through Wednesday afternoon, surf is predicted to build 9 to 12 feet on east facing reefs in Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Areas around north facing reefs have subsided to 5 to 8 feet, below hazardous levels.

Despite the subsiding high surf, a small craft advisory will be in effect for all the islands through Wednesday. Combined seas peaking near 12 feet can be expected over

the next couple of days, making conditions exceptionally dangerous for small vessels and swimmers. The National Weather Service recommends

mariners operating small vessels should avoid operating in these conditions.

Mariners should only travel if necessary and check the cur-

rent and forecasted weather conditions prior to getting underway. These conditions are especially hazardous when entering or leaving harbors

and near inlets and reef lines. Mariners should remain aware of changing conditions once on the water. Coast Guard Sector Guam advises mariners: If

in doubt, don't go out!

Boaters are strongly encouraged to have a VHF marine radio on board to monitor weather conditions, communicate with other mariners and call for help in the event of an emergency. The Coast Guard reminds all mariners that channel 16 is the emergency channel and is monitored around-the-clock.

In addition, marinas and local boaters are reminded to check that boats in port are properly secured, bilge pumps are functional, and all loose items are removed from decks. Report any boats adrift, pollution or other maritime emergencies to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG. (**USCG**)

Paddle Smart Identification Sticker. In situations where a craft is found without its paddler, this sticker permits the Coast Guard to quickly identify who to contact. Get yours today from the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

■ **Know your limitations**—be honest with yourself and your companions. Your life and the lives of those in your party may depend on how everyone understands each other's capabilities.

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

SAFETY TIPS

Before you take to the water, Coast Sector Guam advises mariners to consider the following:

■ **Leave a float plan** with a responsible individual who knows your intentions, location and who they should call if you do not return as scheduled.

■ **Always have flares** and other visual distress signals on board. Inspect them regularly; they can save your life and help rescuers find you at night should you be in distress.

■ **Wear a Coast Guard-ap-**

proved life jacket and set the example for your passengers or paddling partners. Before getting underway, verify you have enough life jackets for everyone on board.

■ **Maintain awareness** on the water—be aware of activity around your vessel including changing weather, and always know your location.

■ **Don't boat alone**—boating alone is not recommended. Recreational paddlers canoeists and

kayakers often travel with a single craft and one partner, or even solo, but it is recommended you canoe, kayak

or boat with at least three people or two craft.

■ **Kayakers and paddlers** are highly encouraged to use the

ON THE NET

■ **Safety equipment requirements:** <http://www.uscgboat-ing.org/>

■ **Local weather advisories:** <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/>

CPA board reaffirms airport incinerator fee

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors reaffirmed during its regular meeting last week the airport incinerator and triturator fees it charges customers.

Board counsel Joey San Nicolas disclosed that CPA increased its incinerator charge in November 2006 but this was not enforced because this was never properly

promulgated.

Two years later in 2008, the CPA board adopted an emergency regulation pertaining to the same rate hike. As this was an emergency regulation, the new rate would only be effective for 90 days and upon expiration, the charge would revert back to the old rate.

The board on Thursday voted to reaffirm the rates earlier recommended in the 2008 emergency regulation and the promulgation of the

rules and procedures.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero reported to the board that under the old rate, it is costing the agency more to run the incinerator than what it is collecting from customers.

Additionally, he said the U.S. Environment Protection Agency is requiring CPA to install a bigger fuel tank that would carry up to 6,000 gallons, along with some containment along the tank that will incur added costs. These, he said, are behind the need to formally set the incinerator fee to defray these costs.

"If we meet all this requirements, then our incinerator can get full-fledged certifica-

tion and we can then look at other ways to make money out of this," he told the board.

He later told *Saipan Tribune* that the new rate, if adopted as a final regulation, will become a regular charge that will be assessed airlines and ships.

There are two CPA operations where the charges will apply: the airport incinerator facility that handles foreign vessel waste from foreign vessels and airplanes and the triturator treatment facility at the Saipan airport that handles aircraft waste.

Based on the emergency regulation proposed by CPA in 2008 and reaffirmed by the board last week, it proposes an initial operating incinera-

Marriage Encounter to host Valentine Rendezvous

The Worldwide CNMI Marriage Encounter organizing committee has planned a Valentine rendezvous for its encountered couples in the Commonwealth, with the theme "Tonight I celebrate my love island style."

"Many couples have gone through the marriage encounter program in the Commonwealth. It is our desire to see our encountered couples to come and join us as we continue to build stronger marriages and our faith with our religion through this effort," said Linda Pangelinan.

The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012, and will include dancing, fun, love, fellowship, and laughter, with food prepared by Hyatt chefs followed by entertainment scheduled for the evening.

Marriage Encounter has grown tremendously, its teaching and practices the touchstone of couples who share the same values in marriage—its Covenant. The community has grown in number and their efforts to hosting each worldwide Marriage encounter weekend through tireless volunteers continue to make a positive state-

ment about the island and its people.

"This function ties our community as one. Our encountered couples from when this was first conceptualized in the '70s will see how vast the movement has become. The joys of ensuring stronger marriages and stronger in faith has brought much love to a community that believes in togetherness," said Lynette Camacho.

Marriage Encounter is not about fixing marriages that are or may be broken, but rather making it better. It stresses that your marriage is worth more than you think. Being encountered will open up many opportunities to building a new extended family beyond what is seen from the outside. Hundreds strong, the Worldwide CNMI Marriage Encounter will continue to make headway for strengthening marriages through love and faith in the CNMI.

The Valentine Rendezvous on Saturday is open to all encountered couples. For more information or for ticket purchase, contact Linda or Lynette at linpangelinan@gmail.com or islandpetals@gmail.com. (**PR**)

tion charge of \$1.15 per lb for the incineration of permissible foreign vessel waste or contraband as permitted by EPA and the Division of Environmental Quality.

The total \$1.15 per lb is composed of the incinerator base fee of \$0.41 per lb; incinerator fuel rate of \$0.54 per lb; and incinerator surcharge rate of \$0.20 per lb.

The fuel and surcharge

rates, based on the same proposed regulation, shall take into consideration the actual monthly charges for fuel costs, actual manpower services/labor hours of operations, utility charges for incineration operation, and actual monthly weight of airline and non-airline incinerated waste.

The new regulation will soon be published in the *Commonwealth Register*.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber to host tax seminar on Friday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is still accepting registrations for the SCC tax seminar being presented by Deloitte and Ernst & Young this Friday, Feb. 17, 2012 at the SCC conference rooms from 9am to 11am. There's no charge for SCC members for the first seat, and a second entry would cost \$10 only.

Deloitte's Edgar T. Aguilar will discuss Tax Saving Strategies for the 2012 filing season, and Small Business Tax Saving Strategies. Ernst & Young's Edmund E. Brobesong will present material reflecting source of income rules applicable in the CNMI. These rules determine the amount of gross revenue subject to gross revenue tax (only CNMI sourced revenue is subject to the gross revenue tax). Contract executive director Richard Pierce at executive@saipanchamber.com for more information. (**SCC**)

Marianas Sailing Club notice

The free sailing lessons that are normally conducted near the beach close to the Micro intersection will be moved to Tinian this Saturday, Feb. 18. The following Saturday the sailing lessons will return to their normal location and time. (**PR**)

KagES PTSA meeting set

The 6th monthly PTSA meeting at Kagman Elementary School will be held on Wednesday, Feb.

15, at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria. All parents and guardians are invited. (**PR**)

Free movie at AMP on Friday

Come to the American Memorial Park on Friday, Feb. 17, 2012, for a free movie screening of *How to Train Your Dragon*, starting at 6:30pm.

How to Train Your Dragon is a 2010 action fantasy film by DreamWorks Animation loosely based on the English 2003 book of the same name. The story takes place in a mythical Viking world where a young Viking teenager named Hiccup aspires to follow his tribe's tradition of becoming a dragon slayer. After finally capturing his first dragon, and with his chance at finally gaining the tribe's acceptance, he finds that he no longer has the desire to kill it and instead befriends it. (**PR**)

As sweet as Candyland!

TAGS, a turtle conservation non-profit group, will be hosting the Candyland Party at Godfather's Bar on Feb. 24 at 7:30pm. The group is taking inspiration from the Hasbro classic Candyland for what's sure to be the best party around! Enjoy prizes, silent auction, "crowd favorite" date auction and more as throngs of costumed merry-makers party the night away in blue, purple, and cotton candy! Five dollars gets you in the door for cheap drinks and good times. Come in costume (or not), bring cash for the auction, and prepare your liver for Candyland Saipan 2012! (**PR**)



NEW EQUIPMENT

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Mayor's Office Staffers install the basketball board made of lumber left over from the 2010 Liberation Day booths at the Laly 4 basketball court on Friday.

Kilili presents WWII veteran with plaque, medallion

WASHINGTON, D.C.—At the request of Mike and Erlinda Villagomez and on behalf of Saipan VFW Post 3457 and the 60th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and Rep. John Tierney delivered a plaque and medallion to Richard Urie of Peabody, Massachusetts on Saturday. Urie served as a radio operator in the U.S. Marines on Saipan during World War II. Tierney represents the area north of Boston, where Urie lives.

About 60 of Urie's fellow veterans were on hand at Brooksby Retirement Village, giving Sablan and Tierney an opportunity to discuss many issues of concern with those who have served in the nation's military.

"Mr. Urie, and thousands of young Americans like him, fought terrible battles in World War II, far from home and in places most of them had never even heard of—places like the Northern Mariana Islands. Their sacrifice and valor protected America; and it is a great honor to be able to have this meeting with Mr. Urie and some of his fellow veterans today," Sablan said.

Urie's dog tags were recovered on Saipan in 1981 by Mike Villagomez, a teacher at ChaCha Junior High, and his wife Erlinda. Randy Kruid, a U.S. Deputy Marshal on Saipan, learned of the tags and located Urie using the Internet. U.S. Attorney Tim Mo-



From left, Rep. John Tierney, Paul Donaghue and Beth Driscoll (Richard Urie's children), local veteran Richard Urie, and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan during a meeting with veterans Saturday at Brooksby Village in Peabody, Massachusetts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kilili to host a CNMI-wide grants workshop

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan announced yetesday that he is hosting a comprehensive grants workshop for all interested individuals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"Local revenues are declining year after year; and federal grants are one way to make up the difference," Sablan said. "So, we have to keep building our capacity to find, apply for, and manage the federal grant funding that Congress makes available. That is the purpose of this intensive training program."

The workshop is a series of eight half-day classes over two weeks. The first four classes are from Feb. 21 to Feb. 24 and the second four from Feb. 27 to March 1. Classes run from 7:30am to 11:30am each day.

Sablan is working in partnership with Northern Marianas College, which is making Room D-1 at the As Terlaje campus available.

"The college also has video-conferencing technology, so that people on Rota and Tinian will be able to attend the workshop from the NMC VTC rooms on

those islands," said Sablan.

In all, about 75 people are expected to participate.

Charles Hester, a Certified Public Accountant who has extensive federal experience with grants and audits, will conduct the workshop under the auspices of Graduate School USA, one of the federal government's continuing education providers of choice. The workshop is being funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and participation is free of charge.

Topics covered will include:

planning, obtaining, and successfully completing grants and contracts; administrative requirements and cost principles for grants and other agreements; and effective fiscal management of grants.

Pre-registration is necessary and individuals interested in attending the workshop should contact their local congressional District Office (Saipan: 323-2647, Tinian: 433-2647, Rota: 532-2647) by Friday, February 17 to reserve a seat. Reservations may also be made by emailing kilili@mail.house.gov. (PR)

House honors PDI's Matsumura, 75th birthday of Borja twins

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidEE_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives adopted two resolutions on Monday, recognizing the contributions to the CNMI of Pacific Development Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura and one that honors the 75th birthday of fraternal wins Josepha Borja-Ada and Carlos Borja.

The Borja twins' birthday was on Jan. 26, said House Resolution 17-90 offered by the 20-member House.

House members also adopted in Monday's session House Concurrent Resolution 17-23, recognizing Matsumura "for his contributions to the tourism industry and to the people of the (CNMI)." The bill, originally introduced by Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), was later introduced by the entire House.

Matsumura will be leaving Saipan next week after almost three decades in the CNMI. Matsumura spent 27 years with PDI, a subsidiary of Kinki Nippon Tourist Co. Ltd. or KNT. In Japan, he will continue to serve in the tourism industry by working

in KNT's overseas department.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) also introduced Monday House Resolution 17-91, urging Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to include the CNMI in the U.S. national Supplemental Assistance program.

The Fitial administration has been opposed to including the CNMI in the national food stamp program, despite repeated requests from Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP).

The CNMI Senate adopted a similar resolution, but the House did not adopt it.

Santos, in her resolution, said the U.S. Congressional Budget Office has estimated that including the CNMI in SNAP would result in additional benefits to the CNMI recipients of \$19 million in 2013 and \$24 million in 2014, with subsequent years through 2021 between \$20 million and \$24 million.

"While the CNMI would have match 50 percent of the administrative costs, the increased government revenues that will be realized with the SNAP program would cover such costs plus more," Santos said.

ADA units at Sandy Beach Homes now open

Sandy Beach Homes residential rental complex in Chalan Kanoa will host an open house for its four American with Disabilities Act apartments on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 16-17, to give all residents with disabilities a chance to tour the units.

Open house for the federal housing program will be held from 9:30am to 5:30pm on both days. ADA parking is available in the parking garage, and two elevators provide access to the units. Visitors may check-in at the leasing office in unit No. 210.

Each ADA home features a wheelchair-accessible shower, lowered kitchen countertops with wheelchair access under the kitchen counter, lowered closet rack and shelves, Braille apartment numbers, and other ADA features. Each of the homes has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, washer/dryer, A/C, insulated double-paned windows, water purification system, solar water heater, and ceiling fans in every room. The refrigerator, stove, and dishwasher are Energy Star rated. Additional amenities include a balcony overlooking Saipan's

western lagoon, a parking garage, typhoon shutters, and security cameras.

"Our ADA homes are designed to be both practical and beautiful for people with

disabilities, and we look forward to giving tours during the open house," said Sandy Beach Homes managing partner Bob Jones. "In addition to the conveniences of home design, our backup generator and backup water supply help ensure that tenant needs for safety and comfort are met 24 hours a day."

The Sandy Beach Homes complex sits in the heart of Chalan Kanoa, with several stores, banks, schools, churches and the main post office located within walking distance. The housing complex is funded under a federal housing program through Northern Marianas Housing Corp. The opportunity to stay at Sandy Beach Homes is open to all legal CNMI residents, including non-U.S. citizens, as long as income and other eligi-



bility requirements are met.

Families or unrelated individuals in a group living arrangement may apply as a household. Applications, a list of required documents, and details about the homes can be found at www.sandybeachhomes.net. Applicants are encouraged to bring their applications for assistance during the open house.

For more information, e-mail the leasing office at leasing@

sandybeachhomes.net or call 235-7263 (SAND).

All apartment numbers are written in Braille at Sandy Beach Homes. A wheelchair accessible shower and bars in the second bathroom add safety and convenience. Lowered kitchen counter tops and wheelchair space under the kitchen sink make cooking convenient and comfortable. Closets feature lowered closet racks. An energy-efficient washer and a dryer are included with each home. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB12-DPS-042 (A)(B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 15, 2012 TIME: 1:00 P.M.

**"TO UPGRADE, CONDUCT TRAINING, PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT
FOR THE CNMI PREHOSPITAL DATA COLLECTION AND PATIENT CARE REPORTING
SYSTEM FOR THE ISLANDS OF SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIAN"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS AND SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO FIE CHIEF TOMAS M. MANGLONA AT (670) 664-9137 AND MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 05, 2012.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT, AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **RAMON C. MAFNAS**
COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhcn@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012 • FEBRUARY 21, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

AMENDMENT #02
NMHC IFB 2012-002

"ADA Compliance Retrofit of the Marianas Medical Referral Center (MMRC)"

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) would like to inform those bidders who attended the recent mandatory pre-bid conference for the above proposed project that the bid submission has been moved to Tuesday, February 21, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2012-002**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 21, 2012**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 21, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@plm.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Tuesday, February 21, 2012**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Tuesday, February 28, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:00 a.m., local time, Wednesday, February 29, 2012**. However, if no notice of intent to bid was received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **1:30 p.m., local time on Tuesday, February 21, 2012**.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

Guam sailors help clean up sister village

By COREY HENSLEY
MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST
3RD CLASS JOINT REGION EDGE STAFF

SANTA RITA, Guam—Sailors assigned to the various commands attached to U.S. Naval Base Guam partnered with the Agat community during a village cleanup on Feb. 11.

“We started this seven years ago and what we do is invite all of the community, the different organizations and of course our military friends,” said Agat Mayor Carol Tayama. “It’s really great to get everyone to come together and make our village beautiful and make our village clean.”

Volunteers and island residents from the village along with sailors arrived at the Agat mayor’s office early that morning, and after being split into groups by Tayama, they set out into the community.

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Aaron Eaton, who is assigned to the Mobile Expeditionary Security Group 1 Det. Guam, said it’s important for the military not only look out for their own interests, but the interests of the local communities as well.

“We’re here to help, be more involved with our sister community,” Eaton said. “We were told that they needed help and were here to answer that call. Everything [in Agat] is worth preserving or we wouldn’t be here.”

Ronnie Malveaux, a pastor at the Apostolic Deliverance Center in Agat, who also happens to be an NBG firefighter, had an invested interest in the cleanup because his church is located right in heart of the village across from the mayor’s office. Malveaux said he appreciated all the support the military gives to the community.

“We want to keep our island beautiful, and to be stationed here in Guam is actually a plus for being in the military,” he said. “I’m sure they understand that if you want something beautiful, you have got to keep it clean and you have got to maintain it.”

After the cleanup, volunteers enjoyed some great food that



Sailors from the submarine tender USS *Emory S. Land* and Mobile Expeditionary Security Group 1 Det. Guam, pick up trash in Agat, Guam Feb. 11.



Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Mark Barr and Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Amanda Araya, of U.S. Naval Base Guam Security, grab some food during a cleanup at the Agat community center Feb. 11.

Tayama and a few others had set out for those involved in the beautification effort. Volunteers sat down together and enjoyed company of their friends, family and

other organizations who came to Agat to show their support.

“I think it’s very important that we socialize and get together,” Tayama said. “The military

always comes with their assistance, and every year we have a good turnout and we really appreciate all the efforts they provide for us.”

Public comments urged for Live Fire Training Range Complex in Guam

ASAN, Guam —The Department of Navy wishes to remind the public of the various ways to submit comments during the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement scoping process for a Live-Fire Training Range Complex proposed for Guam.

“The Navy appreciates the community taking the time to submit comments in the SEIS scoping process,” said Joint Guam Program Office Forward Director Capt. Dan Cuff. “We look forward to reviewing their input.”

WEB SITE: DoN has es-

tablished an official Web site at http://bit.ly/Guam_LFTRC_SEIS (case sensitive) where comment forms are available and can be electronically submitted. While the site is public, users may receive an error message when attempting to visit. This error is a common occurrence among many government websites and proceeding to it is completely safe.

Users may receive the following message when visiting the site: “Certificate Error: Navigation Blocked.” “There is a problem with this

website’s security certificate.” “The security certificate presented by this website was not issued by a trusted certificate authority. We recommend that you close this webpage and do not continue to this website.” The public is advised that accepting the certificate is completely safe, and will allow access to the site.

EMAIL ADDRESS: An e-mail address has been established for the public to submit comments electronically. Comments may be e-mailed to Guam_LFTRC_SEIS@navy.mil.

MAIL: Residents may submit public comments by mail to the following address:

Joint Guam Program Office
(JGPO) Forward
P.O. Box 153246
Santa Rita, Guam 96915

SCOPING MEETINGS: Public comments will be accepted during upcoming scoping meetings.

As a reminder, the meetings will be held as follows:

■ Saturday, March 17, from 1pm to 5pm, University of Guam Field House, Mangilao

■ Monday, March 19, from 5pm to 9pm, Southern High School, Santa Rita

■ Tuesday, March 20, from 5pm to 9pm, Yigo Gymnasium, Yigo (**PR**)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 15, 1999

CNMI aims for more matching funds

Apparently undaunted by proposed cut in federal funding, the CNMI government is looking at releasing within the next few weeks another batch of Capital Improvement Projects aimed to rev up the economy amid deepening recession on the island. The next set to get funding boost will likely involve school building plans and other improvement projects of the Public School System which is soon to receive \$15.6 million loan from a California-based financing firm, Rep. Karl T. Reyes said. These projects will amount close to \$32 million with an equivalent funds from the federal government made available under the CIP program, according to the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee in an interview Friday.

PSS won't have payless payday

Its serious move to bring down its deficit since early last year and aggressively pushing for austerity measures no matter how unpopular they are will save the Public School System from payless payday. In his presentation to the Board of Education, acting Fiscal and Budget Officer William Matson told members that PSS will elude the payless payday which was earlier anticipated to occur in March. “We will have enough cash to make sure that we do not have payless payday in March,” he said in interview. “The other factor that we cannot control is obviously the allotment. If the government for whatever reason is not able to transfer cash then we have a problem.”

Feb. 20, 2000

3 House committee grill Babauta

Washington Rep. Juan Babauta faced three House committees yesterday in the first ever oversight hearing conducted by the Legislature into the Office of the CNMI Resident Representative to the United States. The oversight hearing stemmed from a financial report prepared by the House Ways and Means Committee which claimed that Mr. Babauta overspent more than \$250,000 from his Fiscal 1999 allotment. The hearing focused on the office’s fund use as well as assessment on federal takeover and annual appropriations legislation pending before the U.S. Congress. Legislators also took turns in grilling Mr. Babauta due to his office’s apparent failure to stop the approval of a legislation in the U.S. Senate which was aimed at extending federal immigration and minimum wage control into the CNMI.

Basa enters plea agreement in carjacking case

He was with a group of men involved in a carjacking incident on July 11, 1999 and did not make any effort to report that a crime was being committed at that time. And for this, the U.S. Attorney’s Office has filed a case against Francisco N. Basa for a federal crime that has a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. However, Mr. Basa may face a lighter sentence after he entered into a plea agreement yesterday with the U.S. Attorney’s Office. He was later on released on a \$25,000 unsecured bond.

Feb. 15, 2001

House eyes additional funding for GHLIP

The Legislature is looking into a possible appropriation of supplemental budget to help the Group Health Life Insurance Program settle its more than \$4 million outstanding debts to hundreds of on- and off-island health providers. According to Committee on Health and Welfare chair Maria Peter, the Legislature is bent at exerting all efforts to provide GHLIP with financial support to end its funding woes with over 295 health providers. Ms. Peter disclosed that plans are now being laid out to assist GHLI rise from its financial setbacks; the same reason why the health and welfare committee recently asked Program Manager Dolores Moore to provide the Legislature a complete financial report since 1996.

College savings program proposed

House leaders are mulling over the creation of an organized mechanism that would financially prepare local students to pursue their postsecondary education careers within the Northern Marianas. Dubbed as the Commonwealth College Savings Program of 2001, the legislation’s intent is to establish a qualified higher education tuition program to enable families save for college and other expenses through college accounts. Rep. William S. Torres, author of college savings bill, has proposed for the implementation of college accounts that would enable residents of the CNMI and other states to benefit from the tax incentive provided for qualified state tuition programs under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Island Snapshots



REPUBLICAN FUNDRAISER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, president of the CNMI Republican Party, addresses the crowd at the Republican fundraiser at Garapan Fishing Base on Sunday. Also in photo are businessman Joe Lifofoi and Public Safety Commissioner Ray Mafnas.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Dino Palacios, right, presents the Republican Party's candidates in the Nov. 6 elections for Precinct 2, namely, Danny Aquino, left, and Liana Hofschneider, center, on Sunday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Floor leader George Camacho (R-Saipan), left, waves to the crowd as he was introduced by precinct chair Mike Borja as one of two Republican candidates for Precinct 4.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CNMI Republican Party president, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, on stage, while in the background is former speaker Herman R. Guerrero.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Republican Party's Precinct 5 chair Jesus Muna, left, introduces the party's House candidates for Precinct 5 - incumbents Rep. Fred De-leon Guerrero, center, and Rep. Ray Basa, right.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Roy Rios and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro on stage as they were introduced as among the Republican Party's candidates for Precinct 3.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CAREER FAIR

A representative from the NMC College Access Project Grant is seen interviewing a high school student during Monday's Public School System career fair held at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, which saw the participation of nearly 50 students and 21 companies.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 3rd birthday to JR Pali-no! Greetings come from Mom and Dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Aaliyah Robin Evangelista, who is celebrating her special day today, Feb. 15, 2012! May the good Lord shower you with many blessings on your special day! Good health and God bless! Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 13th birthday to Elphidia Celis Pua! Wishing you the best birthday and many blessings to you! We love you, bu-lalala sis. Greetings come from Juan George II and Hayashi Daniel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

GOP campaign driven by a force of nature: Voters

This is some Republican contest for the right to challenge the incumbent Democratic president from Chicago's South Side.

This race to the Republican nomination certainly isn't about the decisive power of money to elevate any one candidate.

This race surely isn't about the Republican tradition of settling early on a candidate who, having labored in the vineyards of previous presidential campaigns, plausibly can argue that "it's my turn."

Instead, this wild race is about phalanxes of voters, delivering different messages in different states. The result is an extraordinary thriller, a contest that keeps defying pundits who pretend to predict its next turn. Americans haven't watched this exhilarating a nomination donnybrook since...well, since Obama fought and clawed and finally rebuked the supposed inevitability of one President Hillary Clinton.

We're amused by Democrats who wishfully dismiss the chaotic Republican race as evidence of terminal GOP disorder. Or who just as wishfully predict that the eventual nominee cannot possibly recover from this internecine combat. Nobody who follows politics should forget how thoroughly Clinton and Obama savaged one another.

In state after state this cycle, Republican voters have buried alive one corpus of conventional wisdom after another. Page back through the headlines:

Early on, everyone who was anyone knew that Mitt Romney would advance from front-runner to guaranteed nominee-in-waiting.

Just as everyone knew that Newt Gingrich, laden with more baggage than a tour bus, was finished before his campaign even started.

Tim Pawlenty, he of blue-collar cred and proven crossover appeal, was making great headway.

Jon Huntsman, the Republican most liked by people who dislike Republicans, would emerge as the sensible choice.

Some easy-to-ridicule candidate such as Michele Bachmann, or Donald Trump, or Herman Cain, or Sarah Palin, would ride the twin steeds of extremism and eccentricity to the nomination.

Santorum—who he? In 2011 the guy visited every one of Iowa's 99 counties and still couldn't attract enough news coverage to write him off as The Impossible Man.

Tuesday, of course, Impossible triumphed in Minnesota, Colorado and Missouri. The appeal to working families that enabled his political career in Pennsylvania has many voters convinced that he's more authentic than Romney.

A national political party known for its snoozy primary campaigns is caught up in a race that promises still more twists and turns. This rollicking ride is precisely why we have primary campaigns. Voters across this nation speak, in their own rhythms, about whom they want to represent their party. This year, unlike most, the way Illinois voters speak to that issue March 20 could have an effect on the final outcome.

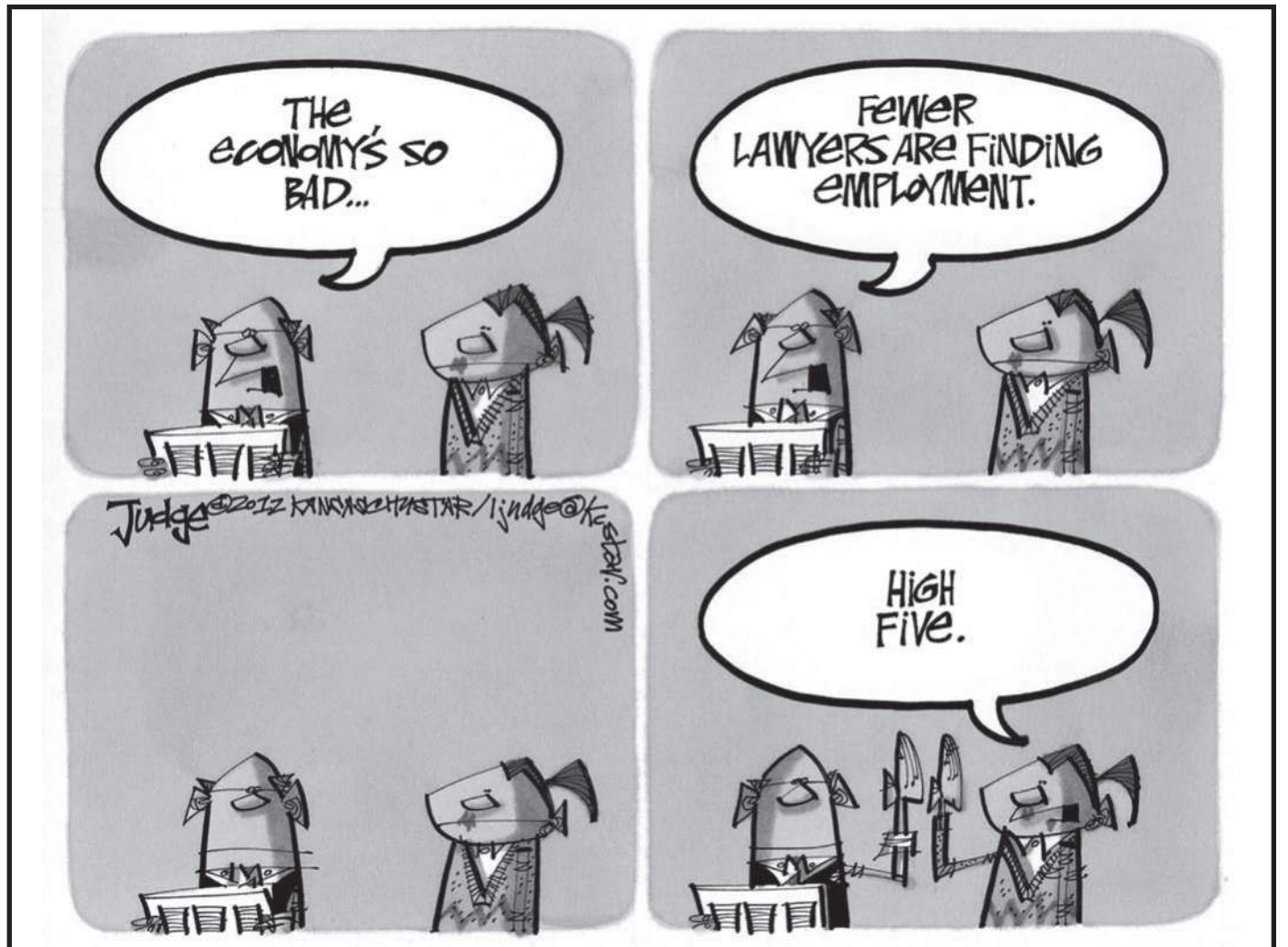
Once these Republicans nationwide have chosen, once they've nominated their candidate for the presidency, an entirely new question looms: Will the camps now warring so bitterly stay divided, with millions of voters sitting out the general election?

Hmm. Could be.

Or will Republicans join together in common cause the way Democrats did way back in...2008?

Hmm. Could be.

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Lies on the Ides of Fib

Truth, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. We are all "liars," though some lies are more credible than others.

Josh Powell of Washington State could not handle his truths. His wife Susan missing since 2009, and himself a person of interest in the case, hacked his 7-year-old son Braden and 5-year-old Charles while on a supervised visit with a Child Protective Services worker and vaporized all of them by exploding the house's gas. The children had been remanded to the care of his in-laws who, in Josh's mind, poisoned his kids' mind.

We often associate such behavior with persons of the caliber of Khmer Rouge Pol Pot and Nazi Joseph Mengele, thinking them to be isolated and rare, until we realize that our neighborhood teems with similar types. Or so a blanket judgment of our contemporary psychology suggests, after all the news of mayhem and homicides becoming common in our awareness, all academic until it hits you in one of your genetic kind and grabs you from the stools of Godfather's Bar.

In the journey of the mind, we posit that the only authentic knowledge is that based on sense, experience, and verification. As an approach to the philosophy of science, thinkers replace intuition and imagination with positivist methods.

Contemporary social science acknowledges observer bias and structural limits, conducts methodological debates concerning clarity, replicability, reliability and validity, as if these easily have quantifiable goals. Psychology relies on behavioral and operational patterns, e.g., once a thief, forever a felon, "correctional" intent of institutions notwithstanding. We now engage focus groups as a source of wisdom and knowledge, truth reduced to statistical probability.

This is NOT an academic lecture. It is context to our current mindset of fear and a disdain of neighborly trust in favor of assumptions of conspiracy and ill will. 9/11 might have shoe horned us into this. But fear is deep in the subconscious; somehow meme'd by the Aryan collective distrust of physiological humanity from way back to Zoroaster and Abraham's children.

Our recent trip to Hawaii confronted us with this reality. Not only does the climate of fear and homeland security's combative defense posture easily attest to this, but a dear colleague associated with the State's penal system has begun rationalizing his knee-jerk judgments on kin and friends aligned with the "abusive" treatment of elders by own relatives, and it hit at the personal level.

There is a verifiable pattern of transference that often occurs between counselors and counselees, in this case between inmate/parolees as wards and charges and their supervising officers. My colleague, in his moments of lucidity, claims that he has become an "organizational" creature, one who reflects the thinking and methodology of his organization.

Reagan had his "trust but verify" re the Russians, but my col-

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



league is convinced that once a person is in a certain groove, the chances of behaviorally getting corrected, in his experience, is practically nil. Recidivists in the CNMI prove this point. Thus, the fundamental distrust in what we might refer to as human nature.

The recent cynical movie, *The Ides of March*, takes the American political scene played by an incredible cast led by George Clooney and Ryan Gosling into the glare of truth.

We do not mean this to be a philosophical discussion. We mean to highlight the fact that statistical truths like "many nurses and doctors have been charged with elderly abuse when they take advantage of wards in their charge, including their own kin," has become the basis of a blanket assumption that nurses and doctors are to consider themselves guilty until they prove themselves innocent.

We make light of immigrants' claim that they are presumed guilty until they prove themselves deportable! The same bureaucratic sentiment and cynicism apply here in regards to Hawaii's correctional system and it is no longer a joke. Anything that fails factual truth is thus a lie.

In this sense, I am a liar. I spin stories, weave perspectives, and write opinions. In fact, we all do, but as a journalist once commented about the alleged "Tiananmen massacre" of 1989 that never occurred but is still repeated by the media, "my hearsay is more reliable than yours." My lies are more credible than my colleagues' straitjacketed ones!

My correctional colleague claims that the system has made him a dictator, for which his wards are grateful for they allegedly get unequivocal guidance. However, this social worker has also become a legal prosecutor, judge, and executioner to his friends and kin, reminiscent of the fascists of other clime, all in the name of social morality and order. Another colleague mused that he would have been at home with Savonarola and the Spanish Inquisition. Ironically, his fear that he has come to embody his organization's *modus operandi* has sadly come true.

We understand. We do not condemn. For in his own words, after a litany of friends' shortcomings, acquaintances and kin, myself included, he affirms: "I still love you."

We lie, we fib, we all use "deceptive" mirages, to survive. Past credible lies, are credible lives. That finally is the crucial issue.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Finding home once more

The CNMI is a permanent part of the American political family since 34 years ago. The agreement, if I may reiterate, establishes a permanent relationship. Our progress, coupled with self-inflicted setbacks, led to greater ruination of self-government through unintended miscalculations and consequences from both sides of the Pacific Divide.

The question is: How do we begin formal discussions with the feds amidst a superbly dysfunctional relationship? More specifically, would there be federal bailout or assistance if this government suffers prolonged financial paralysis? How do we deal with alleged leadership snoozing on the job while hardship torches the livelihood of villagers in these isles?

But this and other important issues have been shoved aside in favor of posturing as though the CNMI is a sovereign entity. There's the preferred arrogance that often slides into incendiary comments and bigotry, ugly in all its form. But did we get anywhere and must not this issue be addressed formally to commence healthy discussions?

As this relationship worsens, some 84 major regulations would be implemented, including 144 pending ones. These regulations require time, energy, and focus to ensure that they don't necessarily render these isles permanently ruined. But nobody seems to place importance in the eventuality of these new sets of dictates from across the Pacific. Shall we regroup?

Keeping out destructive regulations

My expectations for real time performance among the elected elite that they ward off destructive regulations aren't lofty or unrealistic. They can be done with due diligence. I just can't pin down why the apparent indifference, apathy, and muted voice laced with destructive *mañana*. Didn't they promise to work to improve the lot of governance?

Why allow more major regulations to compromise the right of governance to self-government. Isn't it true that government and its mandates hail from the "consent of the governed?" Or is this concept too difficult to understand, much less defend?

Why the obvious coalescence in negligence to critically review the implementation of major regulations? This is where our Washington office, local administration, and Legislature must constantly converge to trump out their cards on the ramifications of heavy-set regulations descending from DC. If it's horrifically bad for small businesses across the country; it's doubly bad for a small

island business community. Hello, anybody home?

Creation of administrative state

Conservative contributors (nationally credentialed authors) have pointed out the creation of the federal government into an "administrative state" emanating from too many costly regulations. It would cost mainland businesses billions of dollars on combined application and compliance fees.

Aren't these issues sufficient to send a wake-up call to local leadership? Do we continue the persnickety attitude in perpetuity as major regulations strap the CNMI from strengthening and refining its democratic institutions while blocking economic annihilation? The seeming ignorance and negligence isn't helping the CNMI any.

Allowing lordship via negligence

As a consequence, major regulations would invariably create a lordship of federal bureaucrats who were never elected by governance across the country and territories. But this form of dictation in absentia emerges when we ignore political and intellectual integrity, two components of self-governance obviously lacking today. In short, the CNMI can't consistently employ its wonderful sleepwalking as to trash its fiduciary and socio-economic obligations.

Glimmer of hope

There's a glimmer of hope, though, as the US Congress critically reviews the REINS Act (Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny). The measure, if approved, would require new regulations slated to cost more than \$100 million each returned to Congress for approval.

Initially, it grants us hope that someone in DC is looking out for the interest of governance across the country. But it's equally concerning that this alternative remains the growth hormone for a far larger "administrative state" or federal government that would literally breath fire down our throats. Kilili and the administration must shove aside petty demagoguery and focus on the task at hand.

Call for proactive leadership

When push comes to shove as a result of heavy degeneration in annual revenues, a question emerges: What plans are there to cut excess baggage? Are investment plans (if the NMI has any) sure-footed, capable of providing economic cushion to ward off the in-

No easy way to halt carnage in Syria

In 1982, I interviewed Syrian Information Minister Ahmed Iskander in Damascus, shortly after the regime had killed at least 10,000 people in the city of Hama.

On his office wall hung a painting of an old Hama neighborhood with one of the waterwheels for which the city was famous. "That is our lovely city of Hama," he told me calmly. "It's perfectly peaceful. You should visit it someday."

He knew that I knew this neighborhood had been leveled to the ground.

Back then, under the regime of Hafez al-Assad, there was no Internet or Skype to send out pictures of carnage. No journalists were allowed near Hama; the government felt free to bury whole sections of the city and deny the story. Of course word leaked out about the slaughter, but there was no visible proof.

Fast-forward 30 years. Assad's son, Bashar, is blasting civilians in Homs with rockets and heavy artillery. Once again, the regime says any bloodshed is the work of "armed terrorist groups."

In 2012, however, we can see what the regime is doing in real time. Brave Syrian civilians are risking their lives to take cellphone videos and relay them via YouTube. They broadcast live accounts to CNN and the British Broadcasting Corp. via Skype with mortar fire booming in the background.

We watch scenes of wounded children, pulverized apartments, and hospitals filled with wounded but lacking supplies. The gut response is "Do something!" But there is a huge disconnect between what we see and what we can do.

Not surprisingly, Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., are calling for the United States and its allies to aid and arm the Syrian opposition.

The Free Syrian Army (FSA), made up of defectors from Assad's forces, is reportedly receiving some help from Persian Gulf Arab states and managing to capture or buy small arms within Syria; it even has acquired antitank weapons.

Experts such as Jeffrey White of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy say they believe that the FSA, whose current strength he puts at 4,000 to 7,000 troops, "can contribute to a process that

causes the 1/8 Syrian 3/8 army or regime to break" through a war of attrition, especially if it gets more antitank weapons.

But the Syrian army rebels are up against a huge government army of about 300,000 men. Its top generals and elite forces are all members of Assad's minority Alawite clan (unlike the mostly Sunni foot soldiers). Backed by Iran, armed by Russia, they will fight to the end.

Meanwhile, the FSA contains separate groups of fighters with little overall leadership or strategy. The political leadership of the Syrian opposition—the Syrian National Council—is even more disunited.

So before we rush to arm the FSA, let's be clear where we are heading: There is no way the Free Syrian Army can defeat Assad without foreign military assistance. Recall that in Libya—the parallel to which many point—it took a months-long effort by NATO to defeat the much weaker Moammar Gadhafi. Even McCain expresses caution about military action because Syria is "much more complicated ... than ... Libya."

Anyone who calls for arming the FSA must ask: Is NATO (or any Persian Gulf country, or Turkey) ready to take on another, bigger, war in the Middle East? I'd say the answer is no.

And for good reason: A NATO no-fly zone to protect rebel-held parts of Syria would mean first destroying a massive Syrian air-defense system. This wouldn't stop the shelling of civilians by tanks and artillery. If, on the other hand, NATO tried to institute a "no-drive zone," this would require bombing Syrian vehicles inside urban areas, risking the death of many civilians.

Another oft-heard idea—setting up opposition "safe havens" inside Syria near the Turkish border—would also require foreign military support.

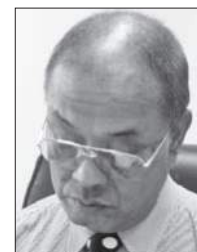
So let's not talk of arming "the Syrian opposition"—and it may come to that—without thinking through the repercussions, or recognizing it won't stop the slaughter of civilians in the near term. Other options need to be tried first.

One idea being considered by the Obama administration is the creation of a "Friends of Democratic Syria" group, including Arab League, European, and Islamic states, notably Turkey. It would press Syria to permit humanitarian aid into Homs, and also urge

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



evitable reduction in resources, thus the workforce?

Is there room to rebuild the burned bridges with the feds? If not, is there an alternative to fostering a form of synergistic working relationship with Washington? Or do we carry on with the adolescent attitude that the CNMI is a sovereign island nation, completely off the mark and completely removed from the permanent agreement known as the Covenant?

Pointless revolt in ignorance

We've spent valuable time revolting against ourselves in our plantation of arrogance while pouting incendiary remarks against everybody dissimilar to us. It's very American to disagree, but we need to focus our dissenting views in a professional manner so it hits the target head on. In brief, the word "concentration" isn't sufficient.

We need to "focus" on exactly what's at issue based on a set of facts. There's a humongous difference between concentrating and focusing. The former is analogous to turning on your flashlight. The latter needs the use of laser beam light for specific target hits.

Yes, there's the continuing debate on Article 12. I wanted to untangle this racist beast to death in order to foster harmony amongst all citizens. It is a God-given right, so who is the principal author of this ill-conceived constitutional provision to change what's unalienable? Who is he to change a God-given right included and acknowledged under the First Principles, morphed into the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution?

Supremacy of laws: The CNMI Constitution is subservient to the U.S. Constitution, the latter widely known as the paramount "law of the land." We need to reinvent or recalibrate our understanding of our moral obligations as U.S. citizens. It's the only road that will take us back home where we could be at peace with ourselves and everybody else.

By **TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



Russia to reconsider its veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution urging a peaceful transfer of power in Damascus. If Assad lost the support of his key Russian ally, perhaps, just perhaps, he might reconsider his future.

"I hope the Russians will make a new assessment," said Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who spoke with journalists in Washington. "Assad promised (Russian Foreign Minister Sergei) Lavrov to stop the violence, but the violence continued." Davutoglu will meet Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Monday to discuss increasing the pressure on Syria. No doubt the "Friends" group would warn Moscow that its help to Assad fuels the civil war.

Turkey's position on arming a free Syrian force is crucial, because it borders Syria and has given defecting Syrian officers refuge. "Until now," Davutoglu said, "we don't want to do anything based on a military presence. Yes, there are Syrian (opposition) officers on our soil, but that doesn't mean we are arming or trying to organize a military force."






"Safe havens (inside Syria) should be discussed later if all these diplomatic methods are not helping," the foreign minister added. He saw "no role for NATO for now," but "maybe later."

This Turkish push to give tough diplomacy another chance is born of recognition that a military campaign would be ugly and long, and would ignite more sectarian conflict in the region. Outside military help may be inevitable, but it won't stop the Homs horrors. Just because we can see Assad's war crimes doesn't mean it will be easy to stop them—or him.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78

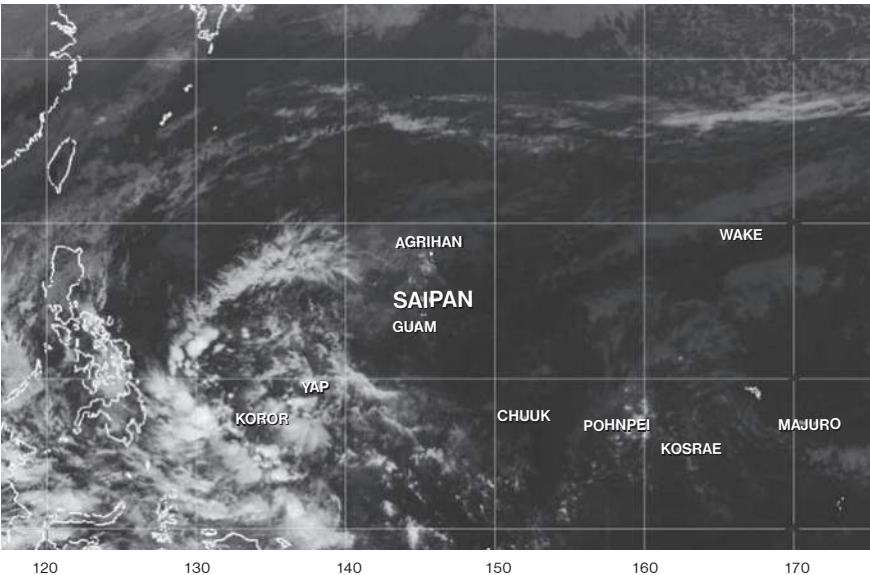
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 19
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 64 ▼ 55
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 40
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 68
Miami	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 69
New York	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 34
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 36
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 37
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 30
Rome	Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 34
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 50 ▼ 34
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 45
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 36 ▼ 20
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 35
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 42

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet	
7:02 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
12:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
8:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches southwestward from near 24N180 to 21N167E then continues as a shear line to 17N156E. Clouds and showers are found along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. A surface trough west of the Marianas extends northward from 13N142E to 18N144E. Scattered showers are present northwest of Saipan between 16N and 22N from 139E to 147E. A near-equatorial trough stretches northwestward from EQ140E to 5N130E. Low-level convergence near the trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Palau and Yap south of a line from 14N130E to 13N137E to 7N140E. Weak trade-wind disturbances are producing clouds and widely-scattered showers near Pohnpei within 180 miles of a line from 6N158E to 17N169E and southeast of Majuro east of a line from 6N172E to 4N172E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:29 AM	12:07 PM
Thursday	1:29 AM	1:04 PM
Friday	2:28 AM	2:03 PM
Saturday	3:23 AM	3:01 PM
Saturday	4:15 AM	3:58 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Obama's budget: Government still getting bigger

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taking a pass on reining in government growth, President Barack Obama unveiled a record \$3.8 trillion election-year budget plan Monday, calling for stimulus-style spending on roads and schools and tax hikes on the wealthy to help pay the costs. The ideas landed with a thud on Capitol Hill.

Though the Pentagon and a number of Cabinet agencies would get squeezed, Obama would leave the spiraling growth of health care programs for the elderly and the poor largely unchecked. The plan claims \$4 trillion in deficit savings over the coming decade, but most of it would be through tax increases Republicans oppose, lower war costs already in motion and budget cuts enacted last year in a debt pact with GOP lawmakers.

Many of the ideas in the White House plan for the 2013 budget year will be thrashed out during this year's election campaigns as the Republicans try to oust Obama from the White House and add Senate control to



From left, Sen. David Vitter, R-La., Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., ranking Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., and Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., prepare for a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Feb. 13, 2012, to voice their opposition to President Barack Obama's fiscal 2013 federal budget.

their command of the House.

"We can't just cut our way into growth," Obama said at a campaign-style rally at a community college in the vote-rich Northern Virginia suburbs. "We can cut back on the things that we don't need, but we also have

to make sure that everyone is paying their fair share for the things that we do need."

Republicans were unimpressed. While the measure contains some savings to Medicare and Medicaid, generally by reducing payments

to health providers, both programs would double in size over the coming decade.

"It seems like the president has decided again to campaign instead of govern and that he's just going to duck this country's fiscal problems," said House

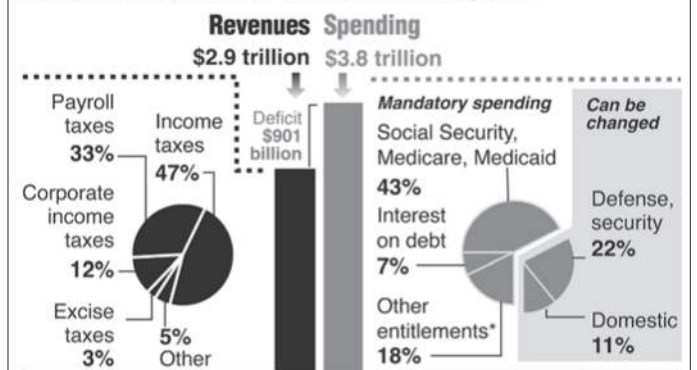
Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

By the administration's reckoning, the deficit would drop to \$901 billion next year—still requiring the government to borrow 24 cents of every dollar

it spends—and would settle in the \$600 billion-plus range by 2015. The deficit for the current budget year, which ends Sept. 30, would hit \$1.3 trillion, a near record and the fourth straight year of trillion-plus red ink.

Obama's 2013 budget

President Barack Obama's budget proposal of \$3.8 trillion projects a deficit below a trillion for the first time in five years.



Highlights

- \$364 billion in health care savings over 10 years
- People making more than \$1 million a year to pay at least 30 percent of income in taxes
- \$32 billion over 10 years in new airline and passenger fees
- \$206 billion over 10 years from higher tax on dividend income of wealthiest taxpayers

Source: White House, AP, Reuters

Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2012 MCT

Greece faces further obstacles in bailout deal

BRUSSELS (AP)—Greece faces further hurdles and delays before it can receive a second, euro130 billion (\$171 billion) bailout despite its lawmakers voting through more austerity measures in the face of violent protests.

The European Union's Economic Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn on Monday called the Greek Parliament's approval of a further round of budget cuts a "crucial step forward," but Germany insisted it would still take some time before the second bailout is delivered.

Germany, which as Europe's

biggest economy pays the largest part in bailout deals, said it wouldn't give its final approval for the new aid payments until early March—after it becomes clear how many banks and investment funds are willing to take losses on their Greek bonds and the parliament in Berlin votes on the new measures.

Pushing the new bailout back for several weeks underlines the amount of distrust that has built up against Greece over the past two years, when many promised cuts and reforms were passed in its Parliament but never actually implemented.

But it also means that Greece, its citizens, and the rest of the world economy won't know for several weeks whether the country can avoid a potentially disastrous default. A bankruptcy could force Greece out of Europe's euro currency union, drag down other troubled eurozone countries and further roil global markets.

The uncertainty over European Union financial reforms and the region's weak economic outlook led the rating agency Moody's Investor Service to downgrade its credit ratings on Italy, Portugal and Spain, while lowering the outlook for its ratings on France,

Britain and Austria to "negative" from "stable." Moody's also cut its ratings on the smaller nations of Slovakia, Slovenia and Malta.

"Germany is trying to get the best deal it can by putting pressure on Greece now," said Ben May, European economist at Capital Economics in London. The idea is to "give Greece a bit more of an incentive over the next few weeks to speed things up and get things moving."

But delaying the final approval of the bailout is not without risk. Uncertainty over the new rescue money could dissuade some of Greece's private investors from

participating in a separate bond swap deal, May warned. A hitch in getting the bailout package through national parliaments in the eurozone could also push Greece perilously close to missing a euro14.5 billion bond redemption on March 20, he added.

German Finance Minister

Wolfgang Schauble stressed that Europe was doing everything to help Greece avoid bankruptcy, "but Greece itself of course must want that." He told German public broadcaster ZDF that if Greece were to default on its debt, Europe "is better prepared now than two years ago."

Independent group inspecting Apple suppliers

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple said Monday that an independent group, the Fair Labor Association, has started inspecting working conditions in the Chinese factories where its iPads and iPhones are assembled.

Amid growing criticism over labor and environmental practices—especially in China—Apple, last month, disclosed a list of suppliers for its popular gadgets for the first time.

The FLA team began the inspections Monday morning at Foxconn City in Shenzhen, China, Apple said Monday. The complex employs and houses hundreds of thousands of workers.

Foxconn, a unit of Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. employs an estimated 1 million to 1.1 million people in China at a series of huge factory campuses. Foxconn assembles iPads and iPhones for Apple, Xbox 360 gaming consoles for

Microsoft and other gadgets for companies including Hewlett-Packard and Dell.

In 2010, there was a rash of suicides at Foxconn's Shenzhen plant. Plant managers installed nets to prevent more people from committing suicide by jumping from the roof. A May explosion at the company's Chengdu, China, plant killed three people and injured 15. A New York Times story published Jan. 26 reported on accidents and long hours in Foxconn factories, based on workers' accounts. Foxconn disputed allegations of back-to-back shifts and crowded living conditions.

Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple has been conducting its own audits of working conditions at factories where its gadgets are assembled since 2006. A month ago, it took the additional step of joining Washington-based FLA, a group of companies and universities focused on improving labor practices.

United Continental shares quarter billion dollars profit with employees

» Employees share in the company's success

CHICAGO—United Continental Holdings, Inc. will distribute today \$265 million in profit sharing to employees based on the combined full-year financial results of its subsidiaries, United Airlines and Continental Airlines. The company is paying eli-

gible employees approximately 5 percent of their annual pay for profit sharing.

"My co-workers worked together all year to deliver solid financial results, reliable operational performance and excellent customer service," said Jeff Smisek, United Continental Holdings' president and CEO.

"We are sharing the results of working together by distributing more than a quarter of a billion dollars in profit sharing."

Smisek will deliver profit-sharing checks to employees today at the airline's hubs at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston and O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

Other officers of the company are traveling to locations around the globe to distribute profit sharing to employees.

In addition to profit sharing, co-workers of the combined company earned cash incentive payments for on-time perfor-

mance totaling \$40 million during 2011. The on-time incentive program pays up to \$100 monthly when the combined airline hits targets for on-time domestic and international arrivals. The program reinforces the new United's commitment to working together to deliver outstanding performance for its customers.

For more information about the airlines, see united.com and continental.com or follow United on Twitter and Facebook. (United Continental)



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,874.00	1,351.77	2,931.39
72.81	9.13	27.51
0.57%	0.68%	0.95%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Hong Kong Dollar	Philippine Peso
Australian Dollar 0.9373	7.7541	42.7050
British Pound 0.6372	Indian Rupee 49.3000	Singapore Dollar 1.2672
Canadian Dollar 1.0025	Indonesian Rupiah 9,013.00	South Korean Won 1,125.25
Chinese Yuan 6.2983	Japanese Yen 77.9870	Swiss Franc 0.9192
Euro 0.7612	Malaysian Ringgit 3.0475	Taiwan Dollar 29.5670
	New Zealand Dollar 1.2067	Thailand Baht 30.8700

Nation

Romney, under-funded rivals in hunt for cash

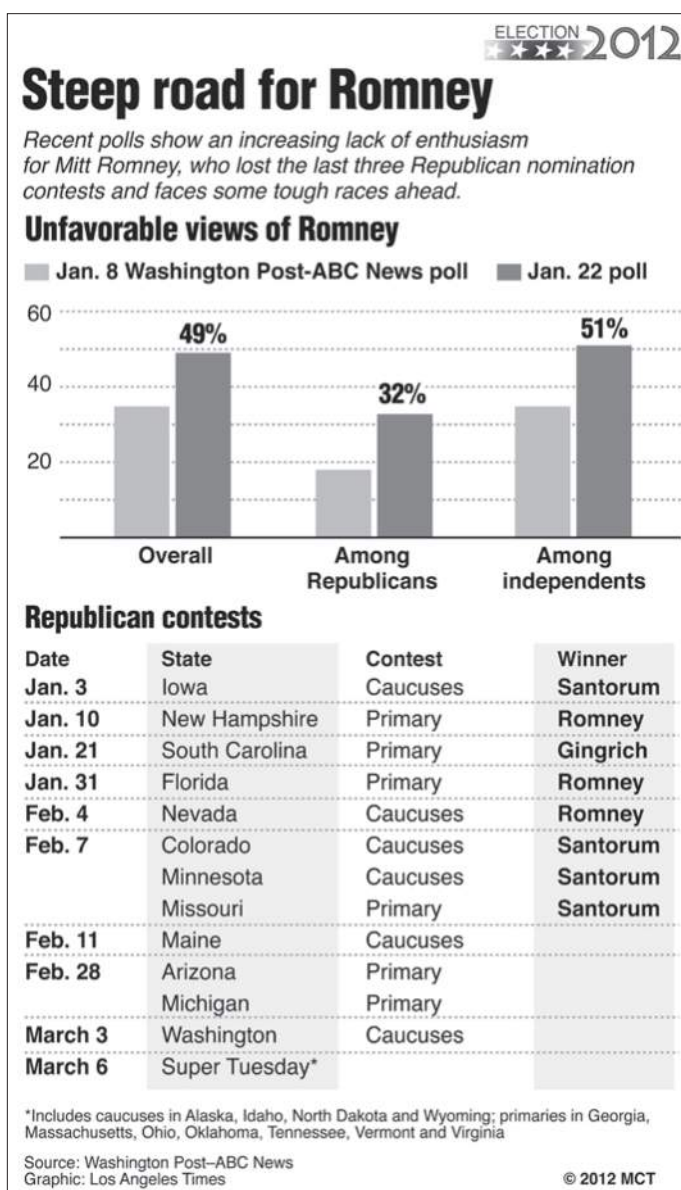
WASHINGTON (AP)—Mitt Romney and his under-funded opponents are taking advantage of a weeklong lull in the Republican presidential nomination fight—no debate or primary is slated—to raise the money needed to carry out Super Tuesday strategies and compete in states beyond.

Romney is the wealthiest candidate in the race with a big bank account and a personal fortune he could tap. Yet, even he is spending the bulk of this quiet campaign week largely courting donors from California to New York as he looks to ensure that he can swamp his opponents on the TV airwaves in upcoming contests.

The quest is more urgent for his top two challengers—Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich—as they battle to emerge as the top alternative to Romney. Both have spent the entire campaign operating on shoestring budgets and working to capitalize on momentum from past victories. Now, with more than one state voting on a given day, they must figure out how to pay for get-out-the-vote efforts and TV ads in multiple states at once, far from an easy feat.

“It’s all about money,” Gingrich spokesman R.C. Hammond said, describing the former House speaker’s upcoming week.

A look at the upcoming primary calendar shows why.



There are 10 states with contests on March 6—Super Tuesday. A full week’s worth of ads running at a heavy level in every one of those states would cost about \$5 million by industry estimates. And the stakes are higher than ever: There are 419 delegates to the Republican National Convention that will be selected that day, more than all those available in previous contests combined.

All the candidates, to be sure, are hoping that outside support from allied political action committees will materialize in upcoming states as it has before.

The deep-pocketed Restore Our Future super PAC, run by former Romney aides and funded in part by associates from the candidate’s former private equity company, has signaled that it plans to continue bankrolling TV ads attacking both Santorum and Gingrich. Republicans say a fresh round of ads by this group is imminent.

But there’s no guarantee that the Red, White and Blue Fund—its chief donor is Foster Friess—will go on the air to help Santorum or that Winning Our Future—it’s largely bankrolled by casino titan Sheldon Adelson’s family—will rush in again to assist Gingrich.

So that mean both candidates have little choice but to try to fill their own campaign coffers.

Santorum, who cuts costs by

sleeping at the homes of supporters in each state, says he raised \$3 million in three days in the wake of his victories in Colorado, Minnesota and Missouri, largely online and probably from conservative grass-roots activists who are suddenly more optimistic about his chances of winning the nomination. He doesn’t have the kind of big-donor network that Romney has built in the five years he’s been running for president.

Thus, fundraising is a top priority as Santorum figures out how to compete with Romney in Michigan and Ohio, which are big, expensive states. That helps explain why Santorum has fewer campaign events each day this week than past weeks. Highly dependent on news coverage to capitalize on his momentum, Santorum planned

public events in Washington state Monday as well as multiple appearances in Idaho, North Dakota and Michigan.

He’ll need the money if he has any hope of following through with plans to go after Romney in Rust Belt states where advisers argue that Santorum’s blue-collar background could help him.

Of all the candidates, Gingrich is the one planning to be most out of view this week.

He’s in California through Thursday, almost exclusively focused on fundraising. He’s holding three private fundraisers in Los Angeles, money events in San Diego and Fresno on Tuesday and in the San Francisco Bay area on Wednesday. He has just a handful of public events, including in Arizona and his former home state of Georgia.

Panetta defends military budget plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is defending his department’s slimmed-down, \$614 billion budget plan, telling senators that it’s time to step up and show they are serious about reducing the deficit.

In testimony prepared for a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing Tuesday, Panetta is warning lawmakers that budget cuts will hit all 50 states. But he says the reductions have been carefully planned and there is little room for changes.

Panetta and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, can expect to meet resistance from lawmakers who have expressed reservations about gutting defense and eroding the country’s national security. The proposed defense budget for the year beginning Oct. 1 includes \$525.4 billion in base spending and another \$88.5 billion for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The total is nearly \$32 billion less than this year’s budget.

“It was this Congress that mandated, on a bi-partisan basis, that we reduce the defense budget, and we need your partnership to do this in a manner that preserves the strongest

military in the world,” Panetta said in the written testimony, which was obtained by The Associated Press. “This will be a test of whether reducing the deficit is about talk or action.”

Defense officials have laid out plans to find about \$260 billion in savings over the next five years, including moves to slash the size of the Army and Marine Corps, cut back on shipbuilding, and delay the purchase of some fighter jets and other weapons systems.

The plan also slashes war spending. Money for Iraq and Afghanistan will drop from \$115 billion this year to \$88.5 billion, with less than \$3 billion spent for security in Iraq. It also cuts in half the amount spent on training and equipping Afghanistan’s security forces—a key element to the U.S. effort to gradually withdraw forces and transfer security responsibility to the Afghans.

While military personnel still would get a 1.7 percent pay raise, retirees would get hit with a series of increases in health care fees, co-pays and deductibles. The impact would be greater on those who are under 65 and are likely to have another job, as well as on those who make more money.

Washington gov signs gay marriage bill into law

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—Gov. Chris Gregoire handed gay rights advocates a major victory Monday, signing into law a measure that legalizes same-sex marriage in Washington state, making it the seventh in the nation to allow gay and lesbian couples to wed.

Gregoire signed the bill surrounded by gay rights supporters. “I’m proud our same-sex couples will no longer be treated as separate but equal,” she said.

It’s a historic moment for the state, but same-sex couples can’t walk down the aisle just yet.

The law takes effect June 7, but opponents on multiple fronts already are preparing to fight.

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—In a move that supporters called a civil rights milestone, New

Jersey’s state Senate on Monday passed a bill to recognize same-sex marriages, marking the first time state lawmakers officially endorsed the idea—despite the promise of a veto by Gov. Chris Christie.

Monday’s vote was 24-16 in favor of the bill, a major swing from January 2010, when the Senate rejected it 20-14.

“It means the world isn’t changing, it means the world has already changed,” Steven Goldstein, chairman of the gay rights group Garden State Equality said after the vote. “So wake up and smell the equality.”

Opponents filed Referendum 73 Monday afternoon. If they collect the more than 120,577 valid voter signatures by June 6, the law will be put on hold

pending the outcome of a November vote. Separately, an initiative was filed at the beginning of the legislative session that opponents of gay marriage say could also lead to the new law being overturned.

Gay marriage supporters said that while they are ready for a campaign battle, they are allowing themselves to celebrate first.

“You have to relish this moment,” said 31-year-old Bret Tideman of Seattle.

The state reception room at the Capitol was packed with hundreds of gay rights supporters and at least 40 lawmakers from the House and Senate to watch Gregoire sign the bill.

Sen. Ed Murray, a Seattle Democrat who is gay and has sponsored gay rights legislation for years, told the cheering crowd: “My friends, welcome

to the other side of the rainbow. No matter what the future holds, nothing will take this moment in history away from us.”

The House passed the bill on a 55-43 vote last Wednesday. The Senate approved the week before.

As the Democratic governor signed the legislation Monday, a man shouted, “Do not betray Christ!” However, his voice was overwhelmed by gay-marriage supporters who cheered and spoke loudly during his outburst.

Bob Struble, 68, of Bremerton, was removed from the room and said he was given a warning by security. Struble said he believes the state will halt gay marriage in a public vote.

“We’ll be doing everything we can to overturn this unfortunate law,” Struble said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Prosecutor: Man killed Md. trooper to get revenge

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (AP)—A man upset about being thrown out of a restaurant returned to exact revenge by shooting the off-duty Maryland state trooper who was working security there and had told him to leave, a prosecutor said Monday. Jurors heard opening statements in the trial of Cyril

Cornelius Williams, who is charged with first-degree murder in the June 2010 death of Wesley Brown, a Maryland State Trooper who did part-time security at an Applebee’s restaurant in Forestville. Prosecutor Tara Harrison said an agitated and vengeful Williams shot Brown after he and another officer asked him to leave the bar. But defense lawyer William Brennan said there was no DNA, fingerprint

evidence or definitive physical identification linking his client to the killing.

Ga. man claims he was insane in preschool shooting

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—The victim was a Harvard-educated businessman who was shot to death minutes after he dropped his son off at a suburban Atlanta day care center. The alleged

killer was a successful engineer and father of three who lived in an affluent subdivision. Hemy Neuman faces life in prison if he’s convicted of the November 2010 shooting death of Russell Sneiderman. His trial begins Monday. Defense attorneys argue Neuman, who pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, was incapable of telling the difference between right and wrong when he pulled the trigger.

Magnitude-5.6 quake strikes rural Northern Calif.

HOOPA VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION, Calif. (AP)—A moderate earthquake struck Northern California’s coast Monday afternoon, rattling nerves around the Oregon border but yielding no immediate reports of major injuries or damage, officials said. The magnitude-5.6 quake struck at 1:07

p.m. about 18 miles inland in an unincorporated part of Humboldt County, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The epicenter was a rural area near the small community of Weitchpec on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, about 240 miles north of San Francisco and about 60 miles south of the Oregon border. The temblor was widely felt within a 100-mile radius, according to the USGS website.

Asia

Soldier's death sparks debate over arming medevacs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan (AP)—It took a medevac unit 59 minutes to get U.S. Army Spec. Chazray Clark to a hospital in southern Afghanistan after receiving a call that a roadside bombing severed three of his limbs. Clark did not survive.

"I need something, please. It hurts," Clark, a 24-year-old combat engineer from Detroit, can be heard saying on a videotape as he waited in the dark for the helicopter.

But the rescue aircraft was unarmed, as are all Army medevacs. And the pre-dawn pickup zone in the Zhari district of Kandahar province was considered "hot," or dangerous, meaning the medevac could not swoop in for the pickup until another chopper with firepower arrived to provide cover.

In Clark's case, the military says there was a delay in determining whether any armed escort helicopters already in the air could be diverted to the scene. It's unclear how long that



In this Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012 photo, a crew member of a U.S. medevac helicopter is hoisted into the aircraft during a demonstration how they evacuate patients from the battlefield outside of the U.S. Bagram air field north of Kabul, Afghanistan.

lasted and whether it made a difference. Army officials said they could not disclose the time Clark died because of a policy not to reveal medical information about casualties.

About 20 U.S. lawmakers have written to military officials inquiring about the Sept. 18, 2011 incident, which has revived a debate over whether Army medevac helicopters

should have their own guns.

"I feel like they should be armed. They're in war. Why aren't they armed? These young men and women are risking their lives," the soldier's moth-

er, Keyko Davis-Clark, said by telephone from her home in Romulus, Michigan.

Clark's mother, some medevac pilots and others who want to see the medevacs armed note that helicopters fly in pairs in Afghanistan. If both are armed, escorts wouldn't be needed and both could evacuate patients from the battlefield. That amounts to greater capacity, not less, they say, and there would be no waiting for escorts.

In a Feb. 7 letter to a lawmaker, U.S. Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the U.S. Central Command, which oversees Afghanistan, would be directed to review guidelines on the use of escort aircraft.

Army officials say that waiting for an escort is rare, and that installing machine guns, ammunition and soldiers to man them would add roughly 600 pounds to a medevac chopper. That extra weight would limit its ability to fly in some high-altitude areas of Afghanistan and reduce the number of patients who could be evacuated at a time.

"They try to lighten the aircraft as much as they can. They take seats out. They do all kinds of stuff," said Maj. Gen. Richard Thomas, surgeon general of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. "Weight is their enemy. They need to get lift and you need to

get speed."

Unlike the Army medevacs, which are emblazoned with red crosses, the Air Force, Special Operations Command and the British fly search-and-rescue and medevac missions with armed aircraft. They do not have red crosses, which can be displayed only on unarmed aircraft, according to the Geneva Conventions.

The Army's goal is to get the most critically injured troops, or Category A patients, to a medical facility within 60 minutes after someone on the battlefield calls for the rescue. Clark reached the hospital one minute within the goal.

The Army says that last year 167 Category A missions took longer than 60 minutes, nine of them because the medevac was waiting for an air weapons team. None of these delays affected the outcome for the patient, according to the Army.

"You rarely wait" for an escort," said Maj. Graham Bundy, a medevac commander from Sussex, Wisconsin, who is stationed at a hangar at Bagram Air Field that operates like a firehouse waiting for a casualty call. "They could be off doing something else and get re-tasked (to escort a medevac) and that could cause a delay. In six months, I can't think of an instance."

WHO calls for final push against leprosy

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The World Health Organization warned Monday that the battle against the age-old scourge of leprosy is not yet over, with more than 5,000 new cases reported yearly in the Western Pacific, where the disease was declared eliminated in 1991.

WHO regional director Shin Young-soo said the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Kiribati are three of 37 countries in the region that have failed to meet the target of lowering cases to less than one per 10,000 people—the health body's definition of leprosy elimination.

He cited the example of the Philippines, which was declared largely free of leprosy in 1998 yet still sees some 2,000 new cases recorded yearly.

He told reporters that China

has around the same number of new cases each year.

"This is unfinished business and we need to walk that last mile," Shin said.

He called on member countries not to be complacent because of the region's success in meeting the elimination target, to recognize that leprosy still causes much suffering and that more needs to be done to achieve true leprosy elimination.

The call was made at the start of a three-day meeting of national leprosy control program managers from the Western Pacific.

Leprosy is not a killer and is today easily cured. It affects mainly the skin but if left untreated, can damage nerves. It typically starts as a light-col-

ored patch on the skin that can go unnoticed because it causes no pain. In the worst cases, fingers and toes are lost or blindness occurs.

The bacteria that causes the disease multiplies very slowly, with an incubation period ranging from three to 20 years.

Philippine Health Secretary Enrique Ona expressed concern that the number of new cases yearly in the Philippines may be underreported.

He said the country is reviewing its leprosy program, and is educating the public that the disease is not easily transmitted and patients need not be ostracized by the community.

"This thing should be in the radar of every public health as well as our general practitioners," Ona said. "I think this is a

wake up call for us to be able to really eliminate it."

Alberto Romualdez, a former Philippine health secretary and head of a foundation that works to control leprosy, said combating the disease has been low on the country's health priorities because prevalence is low compared to major diseases.

He said the health reporting system was deficient and methods of looking for leprosy cases have not been updated.

Shin said there are more cases found among the lower classes because they have less access to health services.

He said the stigma of the disease has even prompted some families with an afflicted member to move away from their communities to hide in remote areas.

Taliban announce death of ex-defense minister

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban's former defense minister died in a Pakistani jail in 2010, a spokesman for the insurgent group said Monday.

Little had been heard of Obaidullah Akhund since he was arrested by Pakistani authorities in 2007.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said Monday that relatives have recently been informed that Obaidullah died of heart disease in a Karachi prison on March 5, 2010.

Obaidullah was one of the top deputies of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar when the Islamist regime ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s. He was arrested in early 2007 in the southwestern Pakistani city of

Quetta. At the time, he was the highest-ranking Taliban figure to be captured since the fall of their hardline regime in 2001.

The Taliban said they want Pakistani officials to provide details about his arrest, incarceration and death.

Obaidullah's name was among those floated earlier this year as possible representatives for potential peace talks with the insurgent group.

The Taliban are setting up an office in Qatar in the first step toward formal negotiations. The Obama administration is now considering releasing five top Taliban leaders from the U.S. detention center in Guantanamo Bay as a starting point for talks. Republicans in Congress op-

pose the release of the prisoners.

In Afghanistan, meanwhile, the Afghan government is working to sign a series of strategic partnerships with the countries providing its military and financial backing as international forces draw down and try to shift to a focus more on training Afghan forces.

On Monday, President Hamid Karzai's office said the government has signed a long-term partnership with Italy for continued financial support and military training. The agreement states that Italy will continue these efforts after 2014—when the Afghan government is expected to take the lead in securing the country.

The statement from Karzai's

office did not give any details on the rules that would govern Italian personnel in Afghanistan after 2014, or how long Italy's commitment would last.

Fighting has continued amid the talk of negotiations with the Taliban and the preparations for the handover of more security responsibility to the Afghan government.

In southern Afghanistan on Monday, a member of Britain's Royal Air Force was killed during a routine patrol in Nad Ali district of Helmand province, the British Ministry of Defense said. The death brought to at least 36 the number of international service members who have died since the beginning of the year.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Another Tibetan monk sets himself on fire in China

BEIJING (AP)—A Tibetan monk set himself on fire in western China and was beaten by security forces as they put out the flames, a rights group said, marking the latest in a series of dramatic protests against China's handling of its vast Tibetan areas. Lobsang Gyatso, a 19-year-old monk from the Kirti monastery in Sichuan province's Aba prefecture, set himself ablaze on Aba's main street Monday afternoon, the London-based International Campaign for Tibet said. Security forces beat Gyatso while extinguishing the flames, then took him away, the group said in an online statement posted late Monday. It was not immediately clear whether he survived.

Chinese court indicts alleged smuggling kingpin

BEIJING (AP)—A court in eastern China has indicted the man long considered China's No. 1 fugitive on charges of bribery and running a \$10 billion smuggling ring. Lai Changxing fought extradition from Canada for 12 years but was deported in July after

Beijing assured Ottawa that he wouldn't face the death penalty. The state-run Global Times newspaper reported Tuesday that a local court in the coastal city of Xiamen had accepted an indictment from prosecutors and begun hearing the case against Lai. The move brings authorities a step closer to a conclusion in one of China's most lurid, long-running corruption cases.

Australian man fined for mooning Queen Elizabeth

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—A Sydney man has been fined 750 Australian dollars (\$800) for mooning Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, during a royal visit to Australia. Barman Liam Lloyd Warriner was sentenced Tuesday in a Brisbane court on a charge of creating a public nuisance for baring his buttocks to the 85-year-old British monarch and her 90-year-old husband in October. Prosecutors had asked for a AU\$1,000 fine. Warriner admitted holding an Australian flag clenched between his bare buttocks and running as the royal couple's motorcade drove past well-wishers. It is not clear whether the royal couple saw Warriner.

World

Activists: Syrian rebels repel attack on key town

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian rebels repelled a push Monday by government tanks into a central town held by forces fighting President Bashar Assad's regime in an 11-month conflict that looks increasingly like a civil war.

The military pressed its offensive on Rastan a day after the regime rejected Arab League calls for the U.N. to create a peace-keeping force in Syria and for an end to the violent crackdown on dissent. Damascus called the League initiative "a flagrant interference in (Syria's) internal affairs and an infringement upon national sovereignty."

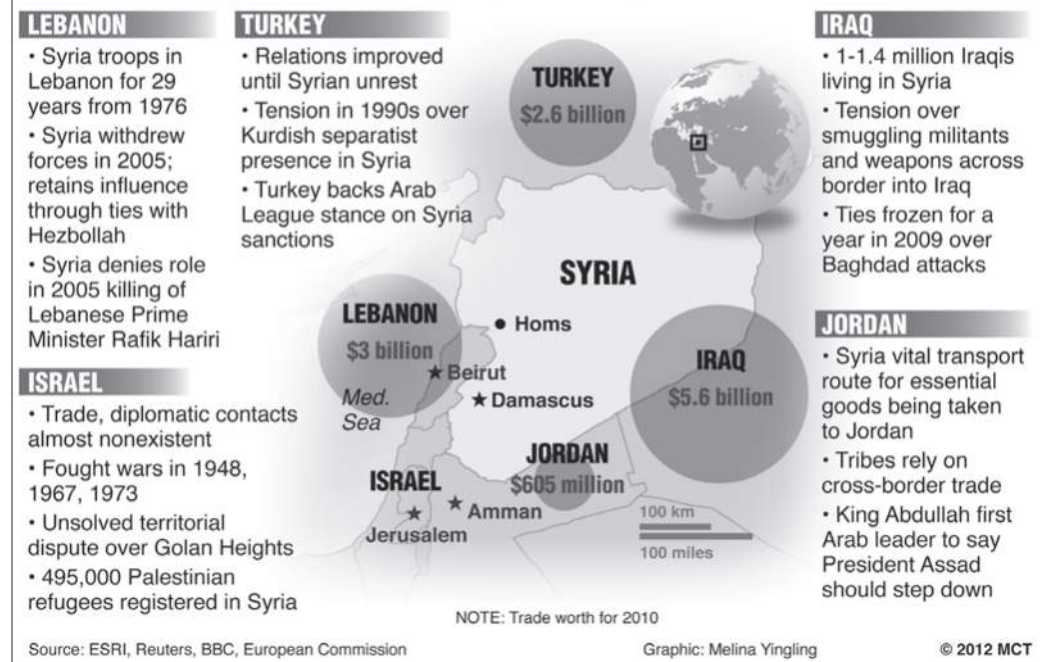
With diplomatic efforts bogged down, the conflict is taking on the dimensions of a civil war, with army defectors clashing almost daily with soldiers. The rebels have taken control of small swathes of territory in central Homs province, where Rastan is located, and the northwestern province of Idlib, which borders Turkey.

The Britain-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least three government soldiers were killed in the attempt to storm Rastan, which has been held by the rebels since late January.

"Troops maneuvered by moving on the northern edge of town, then other forces attacked from the south," said Rami Abdul-Rahman, who heads the Observatory. He said hundreds

Surrounding Syria

How the uprisings may impact Syria's relationships with its neighbors:



of army defectors were in control of Rastan.

Rastan, home to some 50,000 people, was one of the first areas in Syria where people took up arms to fight the regime.

The uprising began last March as mostly peaceful protests against Assad's authoritarian rule, but has become more militarized in the face of the brutal military crackdown.

The U.N. human rights chief, Navi Pillay, told the General Assembly on Monday that more

than 5,400 people were killed last year alone, and the number of dead and injured continues to rise daily.

She said tens of thousands of people, including children, have been arrested, more than 18,000 reportedly are still arbitrarily detained and thousands more are reported missing. In addition, 25,000 people are estimated to have sought refuge in neighboring countries and more than 70,000 are internally displaced.

"The breadth and patterns

of attacks by military and security forces on civilians, and the widespread destruction of homes, hospitals, schools and other civilian infrastructure indicate approval or complicity by authorities at the highest level," Pillay said.

Rastan was taken by defectors twice in the past only to be retaken by Syrian troops. Calls to residents did not go through on Monday and the telephone lines appeared to be cut, as they usually are during mili-

tary operations.

The Observatory, which has activists around Syria, said government forces also bombed the rebel-held Homs neighborhood of Baba Amr, which has been under siege for more than a week. It reported clashes in the village of Busra al-Harir in the southern province of Daraa between troops and army defectors.

In the central city of Hama, a sniper shot dead a civilian, the group said. In Idlib, the Observatory said 45 vehicles, including tanks, arrived in the town of Jisr al-Shughour.

Assad's bloody crackdown on the opposition has left Syria almost completely isolated in-

ternationally, except for one key ally—Russia. China and Russia outraged the U.S. and many Arab countries earlier this month when they delivered a double veto to block a U.N. Security resolution calling on Assad to leave power.

The 22-nation Arab League has been at the forefront of regional efforts to end the crisis. The group put forward a plan that Assad agreed to in December, then sent in monitors to check whether he was complying. When it became clear the regime was flouting the terms of the agreement and the killings were continuing, the League pulled out the observers last month.

Clinton: Poverty helping fuel violence in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Former U.S. President Bill Clinton warned Monday that the rampant poverty that plagues oil-rich Nigeria—felt most acutely in its Muslim north—is fueling the religious violence now tearing at the nation.

A radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram claimed Monday it killed 12 soldiers and beheaded three government informants in its bloody wave of sectarian violence against Nigeria's weak central government. While Clinton never named the sect in a speech Monday night in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos, he admitted he remained "really worried" about the security challenges in Africa's most populous nation.

"You can't just have this level of inequality persist. That's what's fueling all this stuff," said Clinton, who appeared along with Cherie Blair, the wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, at the ThisDay Awards, an annual ceremony hosted by Nigerian newspaper magnate Nduka Obaigbena.

Poverty is endemic in Nigeria, and corruption has siphoned away billions in oil earnings since the country began exporting crude more than 50 years ago. New government statistics released Monday showed that in Nigeria's northwest and north-

east, regions besieged by Islamic insurgents, about 75 percent of the people live in poverty.

Analysts say that poverty, despite decades of military rule by leaders from the north, coupled with a lack of formal education has driven the region's exploding youth population toward extremism.

In the last year, Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is sacrilege" in the local Hausa language, has carried out increasingly sophisticated attacks in its campaign to implement strict Islamic law and avenge Muslim killings in Nigeria.

Boko Haram is blamed for killing at least 286 people so far this year, according to an Associated Press count. At least 185 people died in the sect's coordinated assault in January on Kano, the largest city of Nigeria's north.

Those attacks have strained relations between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria, a multiethnic nation of more than 160 million people. Clinton called for Nigerians to embrace their similarities, while also asking the government to speed public works projects such as providing electricity to a nation whose people are long accustomed to running their own generators for power.

Greece surveys riot damage after austerity vote

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Firefighters doused smoldering buildings and cleanup crews swept rubble from the streets of central Athens on Monday following a night of rioting during which lawmakers approved harsh new austerity measures demanded by bailout creditors to save the nation from bankruptcy.

Police said rioters destroyed or damaged more than 110 buildings, of which 50 were burned. They included nine listed as national heritage buildings, mostly in the neoclassical style, while 30 stores were looted.

Smoke still rose from the remains of a landmark 1870 building which had housed one of the capital's most loved cinemas, the Attikon, since 1916.

About 100 people held a candlelight protest outside the gutted structure late Monday.

"Criminals targeted all that was best in the city of Athens, its neoclassical monuments," said Thanassis Davakis, cultural policy chief of the conservative New Democracy party, a coalition government partner. "The damage must be swiftly redressed and the city's memory restored."

The stench of tear gas still hung in the air on Monday, choking passers-by, while traffic lights at many major intersections were out after being smashed. The Athens municipality said cleanup crews had gathered an estimated 40 tons of broken marble and rocks from

the streets of the center, while railings, drainage covers and paving stones from sidewalks also suffered extensive damage.

More than 170 people were hurt in the rioting which also broke out in other Greek cities. Authorities said 109 police needed medical care after being injured by gasoline bombs, rocks and other objects hurled at them, while at least 70 protesters were hospitalized.

Police arrested 79 people—including a 14-year-old—and detained a further 92, while in several cases they had to escort fire crews to burning buildings after hooded and masked protesters prevented access, injuring four firefighters. Police also said they were investigating a

complaint from a businessman that rioters demanded money to leave his establishment intact.

A police statement said the suspects would be charged with offenses ranging from attempted murder and possession of explosives to looting.

"(The rioters) intentionally picked traditional buildings to burn," New Democracy leader Antonis Samaras said. "These scum must know that when the time comes I will rip off their hoods."

Athens Traders' Association head Panaghis Karellas demanded the dismissal of Public Order Minister Christos Papoutsis, and said afflicted shopowners should receive state compensation.

WORLD BRIEFS

Guatemala says it's weighing drug legalization

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—U.S. inability to cut illegal drug consumption leaves Guatemala with no option but to consider legalizing the use and transport of drugs, President Otto Perez said Monday, a remarkable turnaround for an ex-general elected on a platform of crushing organized crime with an

iron fist. Molina said he will try to win regional support for drug legalization at an upcoming summit of Central American leaders next month. He got his first public support on Monday at a security meeting with El Salvador President Mauricio Funes, who said he too is willing to consider legalization. "We're bringing the issue up for debate. Today's meeting is intended to strengthen our methods of

fighting organized crime," Perez said with Funes. "But if drug consumption isn't reduced, the problem will continue."

Radical cleric Abu Qatada being freed from UK jail

LONDON (AP)—Abu Qatada, a radical Muslim cleric whom British officials say is an al-Qaida figurehead and a threat to national security, was freed

from an English prison into virtual house arrest late Monday, British media reported. Judicial officials acknowledged earlier in the day that the 51-year-old extremist preacher's release from Long Lartin jail was imminent, but declined to comment on the reports from Sky News and the BBC, citing operational concerns. Both broadcasters aired photographs that appeared to show Abu Qa-

tada in the backseat of a van as it left the high-security prison in central England.

Brazil editor killed in rough border town

SAO PAULO (AP)—The editor-in-chief of a newspaper that crusaded against corruption in Brazil's rough border region with Paraguay was shot dead, police said Monday, just days after another slain journalist's

body was found in a different state. Paulo Rodrigues, 51, was approached by two men on a motorcycle while driving late Sunday through the town of Ponta Pora in Mato Grosso do Sul state, where his Jornal da Praca newspaper and Mercosulnews.com website are based, police said. The gunmen fired 12 shots, five of which hit Rodrigues. He died in a hospital hours later.

Focus

In this Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012 photo, students walk through the campus of Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif.

AP

As colleges obsess over rankings, students shrug

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

When *US News & World Report* debuted its list of "America's Best Colleges" nearly 30 years ago, the magazine hoped its college rankings would be a game-changer for students and families. But arguably, they've had a much bigger effect on colleges themselves.

Yes, students and families still buy the guide and its less famous competitors by the hundreds of thousands, and still care about a college's reputation. But it isn't students who obsess over every incremental shift on the rankings scoreboard, and who regularly embarrass themselves in the process. It's colleges.

It's colleges that have spent billions on financial aid for high-scoring students who don't actually need the money, motivated at least partly by the quest for rankings glory.

It was a college, Baylor University, that paid students it had already accepted to retake the SAT exam in a transparent ploy to boost the average scores it could report. It's colleges that have awarded bonuses to presidents who lift their school a few slots.

And it's colleges that occasionally get caught in the kind of cheating you might expect in sports or on Wall Street, but which seems especially ignominious coming from professional educators.

The latest example came last week at Claremont McKenna, a highly regarded California liberal arts college where a senior administrator resigned after acknowledging he falsified college entrance exam scores for years to rankings publications such as *US News*.

The scale was small: submitting scores just 10 or 20 points higher on the 1,600-point SAT math and reading exams. Aver-

age test scores account for just 7.5 percent of the *US News* rankings formula. Still, the magazine acknowledged the effect could have been to move the college up a slot or two in its rankings of top liberal arts colleges. And so it was hard not to notice Claremont McKenna stood at No. 9 in this year's rankings, which to people who care about such things sounds much sweeter than No. 11.

"For Claremont, there is I would think a psychologically large difference between being ninth and 11th," said Bob Schaeffer of the group FairTest and a rankings critic. "We're a top 10 school, (or) we're 11th or 12th—that's a big psychological difference. It's a bragging rights difference."

If it was an effort to gain an edge, it backfired badly. Another popular list, Kiplinger's "Best College Values," said Friday it was removing Claremont McKenna from its 2011-12 rankings entirely because of the false reporting. The college had been No. 18 on its list of best-value liberal arts colleges.

Competitiveness may be naturally human, but to many who work with students, such behavior among fellow educators is mystifying. Contrary to widespread perceptions, they say, students typically use the rankings as a source of data and pay little attention to a school's number.

"When I started in this business, I thought, 'The rankings are terrible,'" said Brad MacGowan, a 21-year-veteran college counselor at Newton North High School outside Boston. "But spending all this time with students, I just don't hear that much about them. I'm sure it's colleges that are perpetuating it."

It's hard to know how common cheating like that reported

at Claremont McKenna is, given that while *US News* cross-checks some data with other sources, it relies largely on colleges themselves to provide it. Modest forms of fudging through data selection are undeniably common, especially in law school rankings. The most high-profile case of outright cheating involved Iona University in New York, which acknowledged last fall submitting years of false data that boosted its ranking from around 50th in its category to 30th.

But most rankings critics say by far the most pernicious failure of colleges isn't blatant cheating, but what they do more openly—allowing the rankings formula to drive their goals and policies.

Colleges, they argue, have caved to the rankings pressure in a range of ways. A big one is recruiting as many students as they can to apply, even if they're not likely to be a good fit, just to boost their selectivity numbers. And they've showered financial aid on high-achieving, and often wealthy, kids with high SAT scores.

In the mid-1990s, roughly one-third of grant aid, or scholarships colleges of all types awarded with their own money, was given on grounds other than need (typically called "merit aid"). A decade later, they gave away three times as much money—but well over half was based on merit.

Yes, some colleges recruited better students, but there was a price to be paid. Consider a 2008 study by The Institute for College Access and Success that examined the \$11.2 billion annually four-year colleges were awarding in grant aid. Of that, \$3.35 billion was awarded

as merit aid. That would have easily covered the \$2.4 billion in unmet need-based aid that the colleges said their low-income students still faced.

Rankings critic Lloyd Thacker, founder of the group Education Conservancy, calls that a shift in financial aid from "charitable acts to competitive weapons." Or, as Schaeffer describes it, "they end up giving the money to rich white kids."

The vast majority of students attend college within three hours of home, so national rankings have little meaning. What matters? Usually more mundane or subjective concerns. One student who went to MacGowan's office last week for a college planning meeting, junior Bridget Gillis, said she'd yet to even see a college ranking guide. Her criteria: "If they have my major, if it's a nice campus, how big it is, if they have the sport I want to play in college (field hockey)."

The latest version of a huge national survey of college freshmen conducted annually by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute asked students to list various factors affecting their choice of college. Rankings in national magazines were No. 11 for current college freshmen, with roughly one in six calling them very important, well behind factors such as cost, size and location.

Those findings may be somewhat misleading. The leading factor cited, by almost two-thirds of students, was their college's "academic reputation," which can be hard to disentangle from its ranking. A reputational survey ranking accounts for 25 percent of a college's score in *US News*, and fame from a high *US News* rankings contributes to reputation, even if students

say the ranking itself wasn't a factor. Such circularity is one of many things critics dislike about the *US News* methodology.

But the survey data do suggest students generally heed the magazine's advice not to use the rankings to make fine-grained distinctions between schools.

"As someone who is asked every year to comment on the rankings, it seems to me that who cares most is the media," John Pryor, who directs the UCLA survey, wrote in a blog post last year. "Second would be college presidents and development officers. Way down the list seem to be those who are actually trying to decide where to go to college."

Thacker says the rankings do have negative psychological effects on students, though usually only the top 10 to 15 percent who are applying to competitive colleges. But it has affected a much broader swath of colleges that have been unable to suppress their competitive urges for the educational common good.

"It has more an impact on colleges, presidents and trustees than it does on students," Thacker said. "The colleges have shifted resources and changed practices and policies that were once governed by educational values to serve prestige and rank and status."

That effect, he says, is dishonorable, even if some colleges at least feel guilty about it. More than 80 percent of college admissions officers surveyed for a report last fall by the National Association for College Admission Counseling felt the *US News* rankings offered students misleading conclusions, and roughly the same proportion agreed they caused counterproductive behavior by colleges. Yet more than 70 percent said

their schools promoted their ranking in marketing materials.

The fact that the highly regarded dean apparently involved in the scandal at Claremont McKenna may have been driven to submit inflated test scores is an indicator of the scale of pressure that surrounds the rankings, said David Hawkins, director of public policy and research at NACAC, the counseling group. That pressure comes from all corners of the university—trustees, alumni, presidents, even politicians.

"It's clear from the (Claremont McKenna) story that admission offices are under pressure," he said. "The key question is, how do you stop the madness?"

Bob Morse, who oversees the *US News* rankings as director of data research, says many of the behaviors the rankings have incentivized in colleges are benign. He points to universities like Northeastern and Southern California that have moved up in recent years through concerted efforts to improve their stats in variables that go into the formula—but which also are good for students. Things like more small classes, programs to boost retention, higher faculty-to-student ratios. And why, Morse asks, should colleges be criticized for casting a wider recruiting net?

But even Morse, who says colleges paid the rankings little attention when they debuted in 1983, says he's been shocked by how seriously they now take their standing, and the lengths they go to move up.

"None of those things when we first started we had in mind would even happen or even could happen," he said. "It's evolved in ways that have taken on a life of their own. To us, it's proof people are paying attention."

Campus Life

Saving for college doesn't end at orientation

By PAMELA YIP
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS—Families bust their tails for years to scrimp and save for their children's college education.

But they must keep in mind that the job isn't done once the child starts college. It's just as important to keep expenses in line over the course of the student's college career.

"When a child goes off to college, it's a time to reprioritize spending—both current and projected," said Paul Goebel, senior associate dean of students at the University of North Texas Student Money Management Center.

For parents, he said, the question becomes, "How much are they going to be able to provide in financial support in college and living expenses?"

Unfortunately, there's no one answer, as each family's situation is different. But there are some common themes each family must address.

The first step, experts say, is to have the money talk with your college-age child.

"Before the student heads to college, the parents and student should sit down and have a talk about college finances," said June Walbert, a certified financial planner at USAA Financial Planning. "If you don't know that money is tight as a student, you may not conduct yourself as if money is tight."

Robert and Sandy Dubek of Flower Mound, Texas, had the talk with each of their five children as they prepared them for college.

The key message was that paying for college isn't easy and the children should graduate in four years.

"It's not cheap," said Robert Dubek, an area manager for the Federal Investigative Services, which conducts background checks for people seeking security clearance. "It's an investment, so when we make a commitment to something, we need to finish it."



DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Robert and Sandy Dubek told their children about searching for scholarships and renewing grants and other financial aid each year. "We pay for tuition and a certain amount for room and board," Robert said. "Their job was to apply for different scholarships." Here, the couple is pictured with their children Tyler, from left, Allie, and Erica, on Aug. 2, 2011 in Flower Mound, Texas.

Once you've had the talk, there are steps you can take to control your costs:

HUNT FOR FINANCIAL AID

The Dubeks told their children about searching for scholarships and renewing grants and other financial aid each year.

"We pay for tuition and a certain amount for room and board," Robert Dubek said. "Their job was to apply for different scholarships."

"Kids should not stop looking for free money," Walbert said. "Tell your counselor about your major, and maybe they know of a specific pot of money that you otherwise wouldn't know about."

RENT TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are a major expense for students, so consider renting them from the campus bookstore.

"The parents we've talked to say typically rental programs save about 50 percent on new textbooks and about 25 off the cost of used textbooks," Goebel said.

Sell your purchased textbooks back immediately after

final exams, said Derrick Kinney, financial adviser at Derrick Kinney & Associates.

"Even waiting a day or two can drop the buyback price by 50 percent or more," he said.

SAVE ON FOOD, FUN

Consider buying a campus meal plan for your child. But don't waste money on a meal plan if he or she won't use it.

"If you purchase a meal plan, use a meal plan," Goebel said.

However, he said, "there will be times when a student wants to eat away from the meal hall, so you have to account for those expenses in your budget."

The Dubeks' kids are responsible for their miscellaneous expenses, such as entertainment and dues for fraternities and sororities.

Daughter Alexandria, 21, and sons Tyler and Kyle, both 19, have jobs to earn spending money. Another daughter, Erica, 17, who will join Alexandria and Tyler at Kansas State University in the fall, also will be looking for a job. (Their oldest daughter, 25-year-old Kacie, is not enrolled in college.)

"You have to draw the line somewhere, and you have to draw some boundaries," Robert Dubek said.

BUY RENTERS INSURANCE

"College students are known to be pretty careless with their things, especially with laptops, the iPad, iPhone," Walbert said. "If a family is struggling anyway to send their child to college, it's going to be a real stretch for them to replace all of those items in one fell swoop."

Be sure you buy replacement cost coverage insurance, not actual cash value.

CHECK HEALTH PLANS

A provision in the health care reform law allows people younger than 26 to remain on their parents' health plans. This may be your best bet, Walbert said.

"To get the best coverage at the best price, the student should stay on the parent's policy," she said.

Students who don't have health insurance through a parent's policy may buy a student plan. In general, these plans

have more limited benefits and more exclusions than traditional health plans, according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

If your child is insured through a health maintenance organization or preferred provider organization, check how the plan treats a college student not living at home.

GETTING AROUND

Your child will dread this question, but you have to ask it: Do they really need a car on campus?

The Dubeks answered that question quickly. "We don't live large, so the kids have to realize that they don't get cars," Robert Dubek said.

However, he and his wife will co-sign on a car loan for their kids, but the children are responsible for car payments and auto insurance premiums.

CHOOSING A BANK

Many banks have checking accounts designed specifically for students.

"You want a free checking account with no minimum bal-

ance requirement, debit card and rebates on ATM fees," Walbert said. "Sometimes the bank account runs a little thin, and you want to make sure you're not penalized if you fall below a balance."

Find a bank that doesn't charge fees if you exceed a specified number of transactions per month.

You can open a joint account with your child so you can easily deposit money. Or, your child can have his or her own checking account—but you need to keep a close watch.

"I recommend at the end of every semester that you talk to your child about how the money thing went," Walbert said. "You will know whether you need to cough up more money, and you can also counsel them on better (money) management."

WATCH THE CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards can be trouble for college students because the debt can dog them after they graduate.

People under age 21 must have an adult co-signer to get a credit card if they can't show they have the means to pay off the debt on their own. Think carefully before co-signing for a credit card. If your child is late on payments, it would hurt both your credit records.

If your child isn't good at managing money, get them a prepaid credit card that you pre-load with funds. Your child will never spend more money than is loaded on the card.

"It's fair for the kid to know that once the card is dry, it's dry," Walbert said.

The bottom line, Walbert said, is the college experience should help teach students how to manage their money and make ends meet without a financial hardship.

"That's the trick," she said.

"We want our students to grow into financially responsible and financially independent people," Walbert said. "We want them off our payroll."

Green Meadow students win honors at forensic competition

Green Meadow School was only able to send four students to the National Junior Forensic League competition at Hopwood Junior High School on Jan. 21, 2012, but all four still managed to win a number of honors in three categories.

Parents, the school administration, faculty and staff, GMS students, friends and supporters congratulate Ezekiel, Monica, Chekaina and Mary Grace for their excellent performances. The whole Green Meadow School family is very proud of you!

Poetry Reading MA

- 2nd Place, Ezekiel Krister Alfred
- 3rd Place, Mary Grace Briones

Dramatic Interpretation:

- 3rd Place, Chekaina Viel Coloma
- 4th Place, Monica Aira Usi
- 5th Place, Mary Grace Briones

Duo B:

- 3rd Place, Chekaina Viel Coloma and Mary Grace Briones

Green Meadow School president Mila Merjilla, right, poses with students that participated in the National Junior Forensic League competition at Hopwood Junior High School on Jan. 21, 2012.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Life & Style

Authorities say Houston was underwater in tub

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Whitney Houston was underwater and apparently unconscious when she was pulled from a Beverly Hills hotel bathtub, and she had prescription drugs in her room, authorities said Monday.

Two days after her death, Houston's body was taken to a small, Los Angeles-area airport to be flown to New Jersey, where her family was making arrangements for a funeral at the end of the week.

An autopsy was done Sunday, and authorities said there were no indications of foul play and no obvious signs of trauma on Houston's body. It could be weeks, however, before the coroner's office completes toxicology tests to establish her cause of death.

The 48-year-old singer had struggled for years with cocaine, marijuana and pills, and her behavior had become erratic.

Houston was found Saturday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel by a member of her staff about 3:30 p.m., just hours before she was supposed to appear at a pre-Grammy Awards gala, police Lt. Mark Rosen said.

She was pulled from the tub by members of her staff, and hotel security was promptly notified, Rosen said. She was pronounced dead about a half-hour later.



An unmarked van transports the body of singer Whitney Houston is escorted by Los Angeles Police into the Van Nuys Airport in Van Nuys, Calif. on Monday, Feb. 13, 2012.

"As of right now, it's not a criminal investigation," Rosen said, refusing to release further details. "We have concluded our portion of the investigation at the hotel."

Los Angeles County coroner's assistant chief Ed Winter said there were bottles of prescription medicine in the room. He would not give details except to say: "There weren't a lot of prescription bottles. You probably have

just as many prescription bottles in your medicine cabinet."

The coroner's office released the body to the family Monday morning. Later, a police convoy accompanied two vehicles into a Van Nuys Airport hangar, and a private, twin-engine jet rolled out of the hangar and took off shortly after 3 p.m. PST.

Two people who spoke with Houston's family said the singer would be taken to New Jersey.

The two, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak for the family, said Houston's relatives raised the possibility of a wake Thursday and a funeral Friday at Newark's Prudential Center, an arena that can seat about 18,000 people.

Houston was born in Newark

and raised in nearby East Orange. She began singing as a child at Newark's New Hope Baptist Church, where her mother, Grammy-winning gospel singer Cissy Houston, led the music program for many years.

The White House said President Barack Obama's thoughts and prayers were with Houston's

family, especially her daughter. Press secretary Jay Carney paid tribute to the singer's "immense talent" and called it a tragedy to lose somebody so gifted at such a young age.

Houston's death is a sad re-wind of what befell Michael Jackson and Amy Winehouse. It took three months for a London coroner to rule that Winehouse drank herself to death last July. A powerful anesthetic was quickly linked to Jackson's June 2009 death. Three months ago, Jackson's doctor was convicted of involuntary manslaughter.

Houston's death tinged the Grammy ceremonies with sadness. It also probably boosted viewership, which was 50 percent higher than last year, with nearly 40 million viewers tuning in to the program on CBS.

A sensation from her first album, Houston was one of the world's best-selling artists from the mid-1980s to the late 1990s, turning out such hits as "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," "How Will I Know," "The Greatest Love of All" and "I Will Always Love You." But as she struggled with drugs, her majestic voice became raspy, and she couldn't hit the high notes.

AP: Whitney Houston's body headed home to NJ

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Whitney Houston's body was headed home to New Jersey late Monday for a funeral to be held at week's end, said two people who have spoken with her family.

The two people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak for the family and because funeral arrangements hadn't been completed.

Houston's family raised the possibility of holding a wake Thursday and a funeral Friday at Newark's Prudential Center, which hosts college and professional sporting events and seats about 18,000 people. City officials were awaiting the family's arrival to complete the funeral planning.

A picture of Houston appeared Monday night on the electronic board outside the arena, one of the nation's busiest entertainment venues, with a New Jersey Devils game Friday night posing a logistical challenge to a planned funeral that day.

The 48-year-old pop star was found dead in a bathtub in her suite at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in California on Saturday, hours before she was supposed to appear at a pre-Grammy Awards gala.

Funeral arrangements were being made by Newark's Whigham Funeral Home, which handled the 2003 funeral of Houston's father, John Houston, according to the two people who spoke to the AP.

A woman at the funeral home, where several police officers were stationed, said she could neither confirm nor deny reports that it would handle the arrangements. A white tent was set up leading into the funeral home's rear entrance, and two opulent golden sarcophaguses stood at the front entrance.

About a dozen Houston fans went to the funeral home, where they played her songs, sang and lit candles to remember her.

The Los Angeles coroner's office said Houston's body was released to the family Monday morning, and police said the body was taken to a Los Angeles-area airport in the afternoon.

Houston was born in Newark and was raised in nearby East Orange. She began singing as a child at Newark's New Hope Baptist Church, where her mother, Grammy-winning gospel singer Cissy Houston, led the music program for many years. Her cousin singer Dionne Warwick also sang in its choir.

On Monday, mourners left flowers, balloons and candles

for Houston at the wrought-iron fence around the tall brick church, which sits near the edge of an abandoned housing project near the train line leading to New York City.

"She was an inspiration to everybody," said Gregory Hanks, an actor who grew up in the neighborhood and who dropped off a bouquet of flowers.

Hanks said he saw Houston perform at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center years ago.

"I grew up listening to her as a little boy, and to hear her sing, you knew she was special," the 26-year-old said.

Sandy Farrow, a technology consultant from Mitchellville, Md., who was in the area visiting relatives, said she was a senior at Clifford J. Scott High School in East Orange when Houston was a freshman.

"We felt like she put East Orange on the map," she said.

Farrow said Houston's death came as a shock.

"We lost somebody who I thought, after all her troubles, was coming back," Farrow said.

Across the street from the church, Bashir Rasheed set up shop with a duffel bag full of T-shirts reading "In Memory of Whitney Houston 1963-2012." He said he had sold 24 shirts at \$10 apiece within a few hours.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

George Joseph "Keoki" Affatica Sablan (Pitu)

Born on October 23, 1970 and was called to eternal rest on February 10, 2012 in Honolulu Hawaii

In his new life, he now joins his:

Grandparents: Alejandro and Fidelia Sablan (Pitu)
Philip and Beatrice Affatica

Aunts and Uncles: Concepcion, Juan, Leonordes, Santiago and Francisco Camacho Sablan

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:


Wife: Consalacion Muna Sablan

Daughters: Keavonnie Muna Sablan and Heaven Muna Hocog

Parents: Jose Camacho Sablan (Pitu) and Janice Affatica Sablan

Brother: Alexander Affatica Sablan (Nora)
Amanda Mae, Kanani Lynn and Sean Alexander

Sister: Leilani Sablan Matsumoto (Nori)
Koujiro Jonah



He will also be missed by his numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews and Cousins.

Nightly rosary is offered at 7:00 p.m., Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Grammy embrace of Chris Brown draws criticism

NEW YORK (AP)—The Grammy Awards' warm embrace of Chris Brown three years after his assault of Rihanna has drawn the ire of viewers who claim the controversial R&B star shouldn't have been rewarded with such attention. Brown was front-and-center three times during Sunday's Grammys. He won best R&B album for "F.A.M.E.," he performed a single from his upcoming album, "Turn Up the Music," and he opened a dance tribute to "Soul Train" creator Don Cornelius.

The imagery of Brown's Grammy glory was striking because it was, literally, a return to the scene of the crime. On the eve of the 2009 Grammys, Brown beat his then-girlfriend Rihanna, for which he later pleaded guilty to a charge of assault and was sentenced to five years of probation and six months of community labor.

Since then, Brown has worked to repair his image, undergoing domestic violence counseling and rediscovering popularity with his hit album "F.A.M.E. (Forgiving All My Enemies)." Last year, his restraining order was eased. The former order required Brown to stay 50 yards away from 23-year-old Rihanna, but the restriction was reduced to 10 yards if they were at a music industry event.

On Sunday evening, Twitter was abuzz with questions of Brown's significant role in the proceedings. Many critics argued against the Grammys' decision to celebrate Brown and endorse his comeback.

New Yorker music critic Sasha Frere-Jones called Brown's return "one of the Grammys' weirdest choices ever," and cited R&B singer Drake as the more deserving star in the genre to celebrate.

In an op-ed, Valerie Strauss for The Washington Post said that while people deserve second chances, "That doesn't mean they deserve a chance to strut around the Grammy stage a few years after being convicted of felony assault."

Jeffrey Goldberg for The Atlantic tweeted: "I don't look for the Grammys for moral clarity, but, really? Do the words 'felony assault' mean anything at all?"

On Monday, Neil Portnow, president of The Recording Academy, defended Brown's role in the telecast, saying the Grammys ultimately proceed out of the academy's voting.

"That's really where the judgment comes from: music professionals listening to the music of other professionals," said Portnow. "Clearly, our voting membership rated highly Chris' musical work this past year."

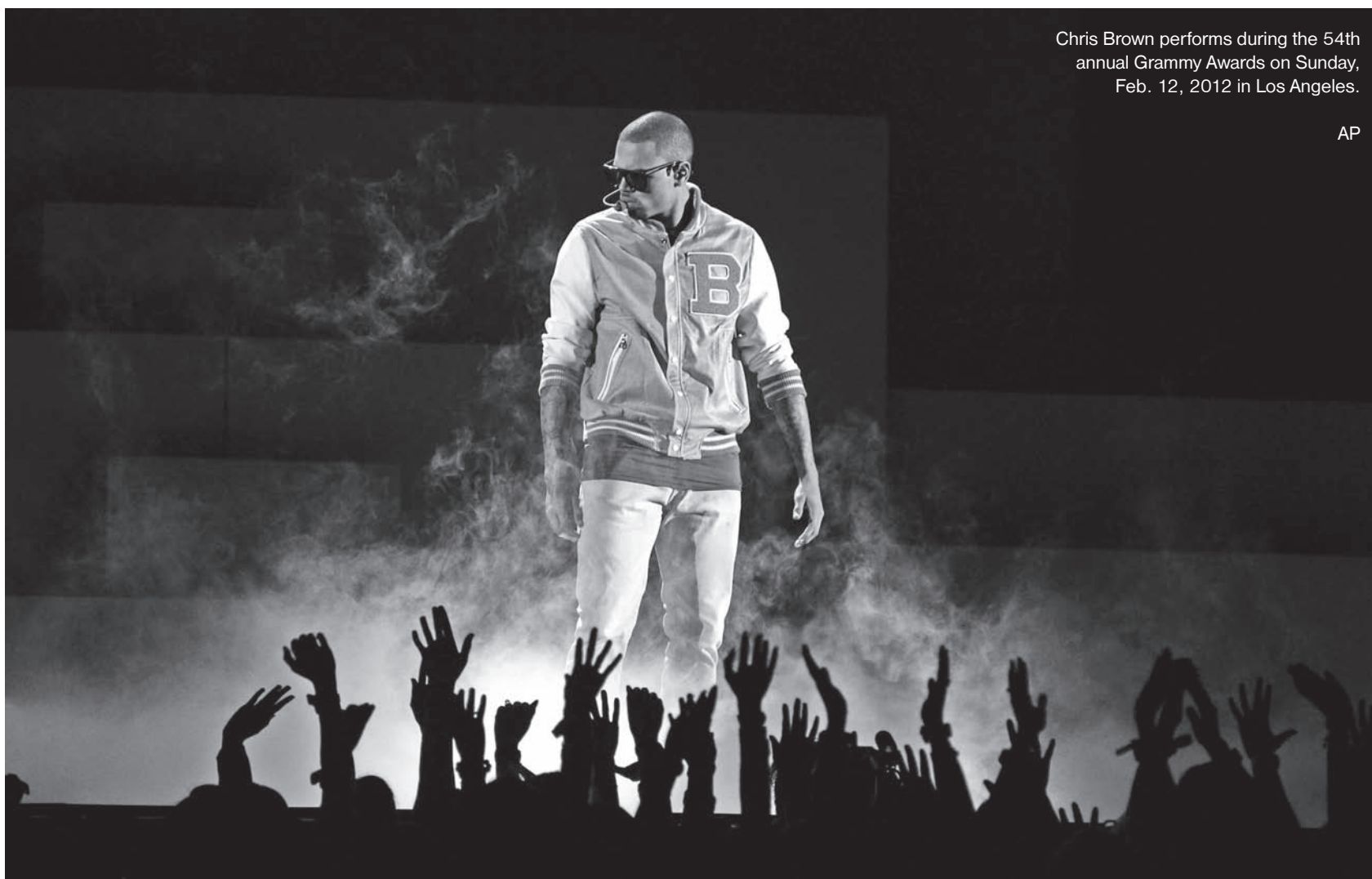
"If we're going to get in trying to personally evaluate artists in terms of their personal lives, that's a slippery slope that we wouldn't want to get into," he added.

On Monday's "CBS This Morning" Grammy producer Ken Ehrlich said that he was "kind of rooting" for Brown.

"I just believe people deserve a second chance," said Ehrlich. "The year he had this year, really brought him back into the public. He really deserved a second chance."

Rihanna, who also performed Sunday, did not complain about Brown's attendance. She has said she's glad to see him succeed again.

Certainly, there are many fans of Brown—"Team Breezy," as he calls them—and they, too, took to social media to defend Brown. But some of those tweets were also held up as examples of questionable taste.



Chris Brown performs during the 54th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012 in Los Angeles.

AP

The site BuzzFeed gathered 25 tweets from Brown fans with lines such as: "I don't know why Rihanna complained. Chris Brown could beat me anytime he wanted to."

The feminism blog Feministe cited such reaction as evidence that "we as a society have a lot more work to do" to educate on domestic violence.

Rita Smith, executive director of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, also questioned the message the Grammys were sending.

"If an awards show is going to highlight an artist, what an awesome message they could send if we got an update somehow about how that artist had changed in a positive way," said Smith. "Otherwise, the message becomes wait for a period of time and go on with business as usual."

Brown, who didn't attend last year's Grammys even though he was nominated for three awards, has sometimes portrayed himself as embattled. On Sunday, he tweeted, "Team breezy we have come (a long) way ... No matter what anyone says ... WE MADE IT!!"

In his acceptance speech and performances, he made no mention or gesture to his last, abbreviated trip to the Grammys. But he did tweet—and then delete—the message: "People who make mistakes and learn from them are ROLE MODELS too. I'm just happy to inspire growth and positivity."

Rihanna also performed Sunday, singing her hit "We Found Love" and transitioning into a duet of "Princess of China" with Coldplay's Chris Martin. Rihanna was nominated for four awards, including best album for her disc "Loud." She shared in the wins for best rap/sung collaboration and best rap song for Kanye West's "All of the Lights," with Kid Cudi and Fergie.

But many performers watching at home questioned Brown's involvement.

"Are Chris Brown's mom and dad CBS and Grammy Brown?" sarcastically wondered Eric Stonestreet of

"Modern Family."

The singer Michelle Branch tweeted: "Trying not to go off on a rant but ...

Chris Brown ... (bites tongue) have we forgiven him?"

"View" co-host Sherri Shepherd took

a similar tact, writing, "Looks like all is forgiven (with) Chris Brown. That's all I'll say."

Sports Illustrated Swimsuit cover: Kate Upton, 19



NEW YORK (AP)—She's a Florida girl who's comfortable in a bikini, and now 19-year-old model Kate Upton is on the cover of the 2012 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue.

She wears a tiny red-and-brown, sparkle-covered string bikini with a view of the waters of Australia behind her as she poses for the magazine cover, which is scheduled to be unveiled on TV Monday night on "Late Show with David Letterman" on CBS.

"That was one of the first photos from the first shoot," she said in a telephone interview before the big reveal. "It was my favorite swimsuit. ... I felt sexy in it but confident."

Upton, 5 feet 10, was born in Michigan but raised in Florida. Her hometown is Melbourne, on the state's east coast.

"In Florida, people walk around in their flip-flops, bikinis and jean shorts, so I'm very comfortable in a bathing suit," she said.

The 2012 magazine cover is her second time appearing in the annual SI issue that's the equivalent of the Super Bowl for models. Last year, when Irina Shayk was on the cover, Upton was chosen as rookie of the year.

"I have had a great year," she said. "For me, this is groundbreaking."

A huge perk of the job as the official swimsuit model is visiting lovely beaches, including shoots for the magazine in Sydney and Cairns, Australia, and Apalachicola, Fla.

She said living a healthy lifestyle for her includes working out regularly with a personal trainer and watching what she eats. But there's no special diet to prepare for a bikini shoot, she said, and she admits to splurging on the occasional ice cream or plate of fries.

Christie Brinkley and Elle Macpherson are among the now celebrity models who previously had this gig. Upton said, "I am so glad to be in their company."

In this cover image released by Time Inc. on Monday, Feb. 13, 2012, model Kate Upton graces the cover of the "Sports Illustrated 2012 Swimsuit Issue."

AP

Jolie: New film should make people uncomfortable

By DAVID RISING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN (AP)—Angelina Jolie said Monday she hopes her directorial debut “In the Land of Blood and Honey” will provoke a wider discussion about rape—something that the International Criminal Court’s prosecutor said could be extremely valuable in helping bring perpetrators to justice.

Jolie, who received a Cinema for Peace award for her film and the group’s “honorary award for opposing war and genocide” for the movie focusing on the war in Bosnia late Monday, said she wants viewers to be “uncomfortable” when they see the film.

Jolie’s writing-directing debut hurls two lovers, a Bosnian Muslim woman and a Bosnian-Serb man, from their tender relationship before the war into the



AP
U.S. actress Angelina Jolie attends a press workshop of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Berlin Monday, Feb. 13, 2012.

horrors of prison camps where rapes occurred.

“I believe these strong issues deserve to be presented in a very strong direct light,” Jolie, who was in Berlin for the Berlin In-

ternational Film Festival, told a small group of reporters.

“It’s a strange thing to say as a director and a filmmaker, but I want people to be very uncomfortable when they watch it, and they should be upset and they should want some intervention, and they should want it to stop and they should be angry.”

The film has already provoked the ire, but of a different kind, of the sole film distributor in the Serb-run part of Bosnia, Vladimir Ljevak, who questioned its portrayal of the Serb side of the conflict and said he would not be screening it there. Still, a small group of Muslim Bosniaks who have returned to their homes in the Serb part of the country say they instead plan to organize private showings.

Jolie appeared in good spirits as she was about to receive the awards for her film. “It’s a

very important night for us,” the actress said. Jolie was joined on the carpet by partner Brad Pitt, who said he was proud of her that evening, “and every night.”

French director Luc Besson, in turn, received the group’s International Human Rights Film Award for his film “The Lady,” which portrays Myanmar’s pro-democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi’s struggle against the Southeast Asian country’s military rule.

The Bosnian war in the early 1990s was the first time that rape was treated as a crime against humanity, and the International Criminal Court’s Luis Moreno-Ocampo said that since then it has remained a major problem in conflict regions—but that slowly the court is finding more victims willing to come forward and tell their stories to aid in prosecutions.



AP
Uggie, from the film “The Artist,” arrives at the first annual Golden Collar Awards in Los Angeles, Monday, Feb. 13, 2012.

‘The Artist’ dog honored at Golden Collar Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Even dog actors can get awards in Tinseltown, and six pooches collected prizes at the inaugural Golden Collar Awards.

The ceremony Monday at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel proceeded like a traditional Hollywood-style awards show, with actors including “NCIS” star Pauley Perrette and “Hot in Cleveland” star Wendie Malick presenting trophies for the best dog performances on the big and small screens.

Uggie, the four-legged star of “The Artist,” was named top dog in a movie. His owner-trainer, Omar Von Muller, was on hand to accept the award.

Von Muller said the Jack Russell terrier, who stole hearts in the silent film that’s up for 10 Academy Awards, is a “great performer, but he’s also a great family member.”

Queen, Kate to team up for royal event

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II has a new sidekick for royal events: The Duchess of Cambridge.

The upcoming appearances with the queen mark another foray into the public eye for the former Kate Middleton, who is stepping up her royal duties while her husband Prince William is deployed as a helicopter search-and-rescue pilot in the remote Falkland Islands.

Buckingham Palace officials said Monday the duchess will join the queen and Prince Charles’ wife Camilla on March 1 on a visit to a new restaurant at the luxury department store Fortnum and Mason. The royals are expected to have tea at the London landmark, known for its well-stocked food hall, and unveil a plaque commemorating efforts to renovate the Piccadilly Circus neighborhood.

The following week, the duchess will travel to the English city of Leicester with the queen and her husband, Prince



AP
Kate Duchess of Cambridge arrives to attend the opening evening of the Lucian Freud Portraits exhibition at the National Gallery in London, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012.

Statue with Carla Bruni-Sarkozy’s face draws flak

NOGENT-SUR-MARNE, France (AP)—Residents are blasting a plan to erect a statue with a face resembling that of France’s Italian-born first lady in an effort to honor this small town’s immigrants from Italy.

Opponents say that Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, the elegant former top model from Turin, Italy’s moneyed class, has no link to this blue-collar town east of Paris.

Mayor Jacques Martin, a big

supporter of President Nicolas Sarkozy, denies claims by Socialist rivals that the likeness of the first lady is a political move—and said Monday that he stands by his plan.

The 8-foot-tall (2.5-meter) statue will go up in a square in the Little Italy development under way to pay homage to Italian immigrants who settled here. Men often worked as masons and women in the feather

business.

“I don’t see what Carla Bruni is going to do here,” said resident Catherine Pelle. “She’s not from the area. No, I don’t see any rapport with our town.”

Mayor Martin said it is “out of the question that we will change anything” about the planned €81 million bronze statue.

“The choice was a very good choice,” he said in an interview. “We are very proud of it.”

March 31, with another on April 28. A Harrah’s spokeswoman says the casino hopes to have him perform at least nine times during the year. Delvicchio was voted the eighth-best DJ in America in 2010 by Vibe magazine. The pool has become one of Atlantic City’s hottest nightspots, with celebrity appearances booked throughout the year.

Couple’s miracle baby is causing husband disbelief

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I married “Andy” a year ago. He has three children from a prior marriage. He had a vasectomy eight years ago, but promised he’d have it reversed so we could have a child together. He didn’t get around to it, but I’m pregnant anyway.

At first we felt it was our miracle baby. However, 15 weeks later, Andy is now “sure” the baby isn’t his. Things have gotten so bad that I moved out of our house.

Abby, I have NEVER been unfaithful. A paternity test will prove he’s the father, but that can’t be done until after our baby is born. I have scheduled an appointment with a therapist, but I’m not sure I want to reconcile with him.

Have other readers been in this situation? What was the outcome?

PREGNANT AND ALONE ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR PREGNANT AND ALONE: Yes, other readers have been in your situation. In those cases, the vasectomy had somehow reversed itself without surgery. (Perhaps it wasn’t done properly in the first place.) Your husband should consult a urologist and have his sperm levels checked. It could provide the “proof” he’s looking for a lot sooner than your due date.

Because this has been emotionally devastating for you—which is understandable—talking with a therapist will be beneficial regardless of what you decide about your marriage.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My stepson, “David,” lives with my husband and me and our 9-year-old son. He is 20 and has been with us since he was a child because his mother couldn’t control him. He had major problems in school—detentions, failing grades, etc.—and has been nothing but trouble. David is disrespectful, a chronic liar and a thief. He has even threatened to kill us.

David’s mother bought him a car and his grandmother gives him money to buy anything he wants—including guns. He won’t get a driver’s license, refuses to get a job, won’t help around the house and lies to people, saying we don’t feed him. He has even said his dad beats him every day.

I want my husband to give David a choice: Get his license, get a job and help around the house, or get out, but my husband refuses. His excuse is, where will he go?

My husband works out of town occasionally, and when he’s gone I have our 9-year-old sleep with me and I lock the door because I’m afraid of David. What can we do?

AFRAID OF MY STEPSON

DEAR AFRAID: Because your husband is unwilling to assert his authority, there’s nothing you can do. Since he can’t or won’t get his son the help he needs, for YOUR son’s safety you should make other living arrangements.

The situation you have described is dangerous because David has access to weapons. Was he ever given a psychological evaluation? If not, he should have one as a condition of continuing to stay with you and his father. It may provide you with some sorely needed insight because you need more help than I—or anyone—can offer in a letter. Without professional help for him, I predict that your stepson will wind up in trouble with the law.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: At what point is a person considered to be addicted to prescription drugs?

BORDERLINE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR BORDERLINE: When the person increases the dosage beyond what has been prescribed, lies about it and/or tries to get the drugs by devious means.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Hefner son arrested in domestic violence case

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say Hugh Hefner’s 21-year-old son has been arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor domestic violence in Pasadena. Los Angeles County jail records show Marston Hefner was released Monday after posting \$20,000 bail. Police Lt. Rick

Aversano told the Los Angeles Times that police were called Sunday to the Pasadena home and arrested Hefner after determining his girlfriend had minor injuries consistent with an assault. Marston Hefner is one of two adult sons of the Playboy founder and his former wife, ex-Playmate Kimberly Conrad Hefner.

‘Jersey Shore’ star gets new gig at AC casino

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—A “Jersey Shore” cast member is taking his act south. DJ Paul “Pauly D” Delvicchio will become a resident DJ at The Pool at Harrah’s, the swimming pool/nightclub at Harrah’s Resort Atlantic City. His debut performance is scheduled for

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0034
-v-	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
FRANCES ALDAN VALDEZ and ELISEO ASUNCION VALDEZ, Defendants.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED, this 27th day of January, 2012 by order of the Court.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	Small Claims No. 09-0429
vs.	AMENDED SUMMONS
SASAKI B. OLIVER, Defendant.	

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT SASAKI B. OLIVER

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1ST Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So ORDERED this 12th day of August, 2010.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Saipan Tribune

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JANTHEWEE PHAIRUANGSOM, Petitioner,	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0535
vs.	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
STEPHEN ISMAEL, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to the Petitioner whose address is JANTHEWEE PHAIRUANGSOM (Responsible Party of) PMB 175 P.O. BOX 10005, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

DATED, this 3rd day of February, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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76ers send Bobcats to 15th straight loss

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Lou Williams scored 23 points off the bench as the Philadelphia 76ers built an early lead and held on to send the Charlotte Bobcats to their 15th straight defeat, 98-89 Monday.

Thaddeus Young added 20 points on 6 of 9 shooting, and Jrue Holiday chipped in with 19 points for the 76ers (20-9).

Williams was averaging 19 points over the previous four games. He stayed hot Monday night, making several big shots including a 3-pointer with 6:11 remaining after the Bobcats had pulled within 71-69.

Corey Maggette scored a season-high 22 points for Charlotte, which fell to 3-25 on the season.



Charlotte Bobcats' Matt Carroll, left, and Philadelphia 76ers' Thaddeus Young, right, scramble for a loose ball during the second half of the 76ers' 98-89 win in an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Feb. 13, 2012.

Heat 114, Bucks 96

In Milwaukee, LeBron James scored 35 points as Miami used a third-quarter surge to finally beat Milwaukee.

Dwyane Wade scored 22 and Mario Chalmers added 13 for the Heat, who were 0-2 against the Bucks coming into Monday night's game.

James scored 16 of his points in the third quarter as the Heat outscored the Bucks 35-24 to take control of the game.

Carlos Delfino scored 24 for the Bucks, who were coming off a loss to Orlando on Saturday night.

Magic 102, Timberwolves 89

In Orlando, Florida, Jason Richardson scored 17 points, and Jameer Nelson and Hedo Turkoglu each added 14 as Orlando used a big second half to beat Minnesota.

Richardson, coming off a season-high 31 points, was strong early against Minnesota but sat out the fourth quarter.

The Magic didn't need him, though, hitting 12 of 30 3-pointers for the game and with all five starters reaching double fig-

ures. Orlando has won two of its last three games and earned its seventh straight victory over the Timberwolves.

Kevin Love led Minnesota with 19 points and 15 rebounds, but the Timberwolves lost their fourth straight game.

Hornets 86, Jazz 80

In New Orleans, Chris Kaman scored a season-high 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as New Orleans snapped an eight-game losing streak with a victory over Utah.

Marco Belinelli and Gustavo Ayon each added 13 points for New Orleans, which led by as many as 20 in the third quarter before holding on for only its third victory in 26 games.

Al Jefferson had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Utah, which was playing the second of back-to-back games after winning in Memphis on Sunday night.

Mavericks 96, Clippers 92

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 22 points, 11 in the final 6-plus minutes, and Shawn Marion added 16 as Dallas held on to beat Los Angeles.

Jason Terry, Vince Carter and Brendan Haywood all contrib-

uted 10 points for the Mavs, who've won 10 in a row at home against the Clippers and extended their overall winning streak to four games.

Caron Butler of the Clippers scored a season-high 23 points against his former team, and Blake Griffin added 20 points. Chris Paul had 16 points and nine assists for the Clippers, but Griffin's problems from the foul line cost his team as he missed seven of nine free throws.

Warriors 102, Suns 96

In Oakland, California, David Lee had 28 points and 12 rebounds, and Monta Ellis scored 18 points as Golden State earned its first three-game winning streak under rookie coach Mark Jackson with a victory over Phoenix.

Rookie Klay Thompson added 10 points and fellow reserve Ekpe Udoh had nine points, including a layup with 35.9 seconds remaining that extended Golden State's lead to five and capped a comeback from 12 points down in the second half.

Marcin Gortat had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and Steve Nash handed out 14 assists for Phoenix, playing the first of three games in three nights.

Knicks think they'll stay hot when stars join Lin

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Amare Stoudemire watched Linsanity from Florida, a welcome break as he grieved the death of his brother.

Carmelo Anthony had a front-row seat right in New York, where he couldn't escape fears he was eventually going to mess things up.

Both superstars will return soon, but the question is no longer whether they can coexist.

Now, it's how do they fit on Jeremy Lin's team.

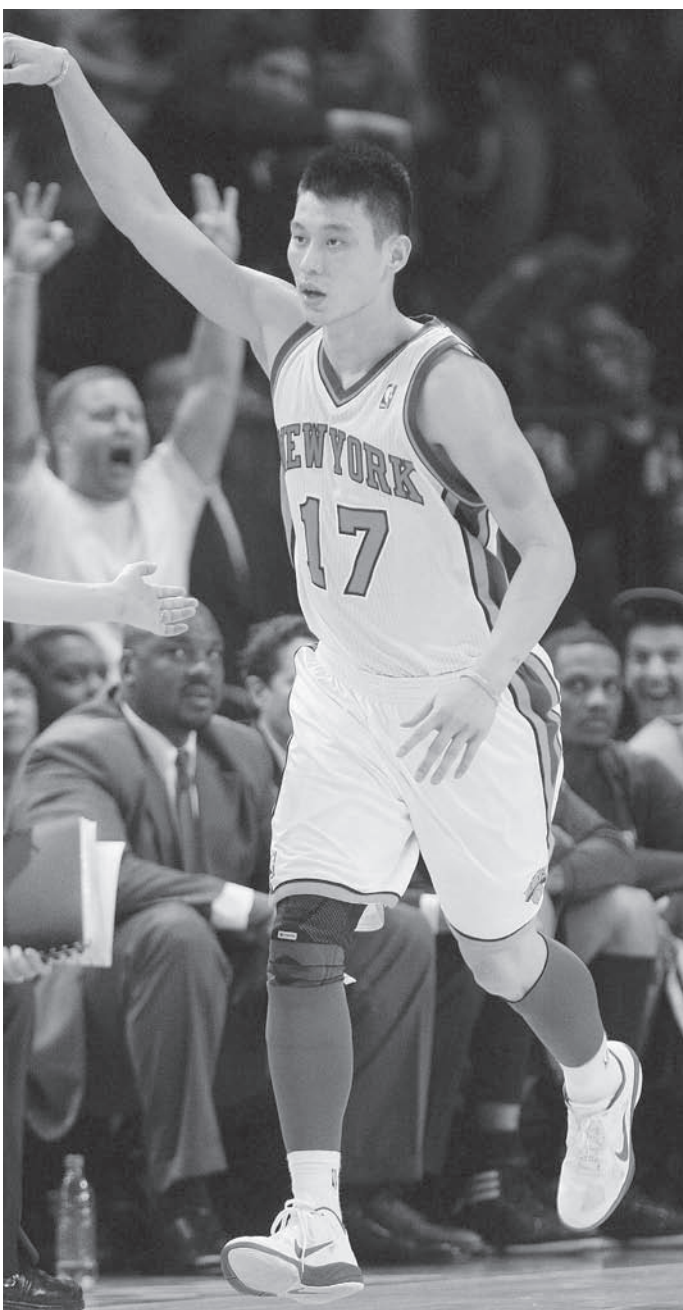
Linsanity entered its second week Monday, with the Knicks on a roll they feel can keep right on going behind their surprising point guard, who coach Mike D'Antoni said has given the team a "spirit" and a "swagger."

"You go into every game thinking you're going to win, and it changes everybody's mood," D'Antoni said.

Lin was chosen as Eastern Conference player of the week after averaging 27.3 points and 8.3 assists in his first four starts. The Knicks have won five in a row heading into Toronto on Tuesday, turning things around after an 8-15 start.

"I've seen some of the highlights. It's always fun any time there's a new athlete, especially in New York," Yankees star Derek Jeter said. "I'm no basketball expert, but I know he has added a lot of excitement. I think sports in general are a lot more fun when you have that."

The Knicks used words like "fun" and "exciting" to



New York Knicks' Jeremy Lin (17) reacts after making a 3-point basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers Friday, Feb. 10, 2012, in New York. Lin scored 38 points as the Knicks won the game 92-85.

describe the last week as they met with an enormous media contingent for a mid-February practice. Lin sat out practice to rest, but Stoudemire was back on the floor after leaving the team last Monday after his older brother, Hazell, was killed in a car crash.

"The only positive for us during that whole week was we were watching the basketball games and we were watching Linsanity and my family was getting a kick out of it," Stoudemire said. "That's the only smiles really they had all week."

Plenty of others were watching. The Knicks said Saturday's victory at Minnesota was their highest-rated game on MSG Network since Anthony's Knicks debut last Feb. 23 against Milwaukee, and that ratings are up 70 percent over their season average since Lin became a starter.

"It's more exciting than anything, just to see the buzz that he's created here in New York, here in the NBA as a whole," Anthony said. "I just want to get back there and be a part of it."

But amid all the good feelings around the Knicks, there was the question that won't go away until the whole team is together in a game.

Anthony, who has battled injuries much of the season, strained his right groin just six minutes into Lin's starting debut against Utah last Monday, and the Knicks hope he'll be back at the end of this week. He's never seemed a natural in the

pick-and-roll offense, given his preference to isolate and take his man 1-on-1. That's created questions of how—or if—he will adapt to playing with Lin.

And yes, Anthony has heard them.

"It doesn't bother me," he said. "I know what I bring to the game, I know what I bring to this team, my teammates know what I bring to the team and the only thing I can do is just go out there and continue doing what I'm doing. Like I said, Jeremy, he's our point guard right now, he's proven that, he's playing extremely well, and I look forward to playing with him, I'll tell you that."

Lin, the NBA's first American-born player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent, came with little expectations after he was undrafted out of Harvard and cut by two other teams before the Knicks picked him up in December. That underdog quality made him easy to root for in New York, even before he turned around the Knicks' season.

"He's Rudy," Anthony said.

Anthony is the superstar whom the Knicks broke up a promising team to acquire from Denver last season, and that comes with pressure to play great and make sure the team is, too. So perhaps playing with Lin can alleviate that.

"This is like a dream come true to me," Anthony said, referring to the ease that playing with a pass-first point guard can provide.

Lin understands the skepticism, but pointed out that Anthony—whose 4.2 assists per game are just ahead of Lin's 4.1

for the team lead—is a willing and capable distributor.

"I can see why they're questioning it, just because he's a playmaker as well and he has the ball in his hands a lot, but I think when he comes back we're just going to continue to run what works for us, and he's actually in my opinion an underrated passer," Lin said. "I think we'll be fine once he gets back."

D'Antoni calls the talk "ludicrous," chalking it up the same doubters who refused to believe that Lin was the real thing after his first couple of starts.

"That's normal. You've got to say something. 'Let's wait and see.' That's part of sports," D'Antoni said. "But again, we talked about he's not getting any slower, he's not getting any dumber, and I think he'll only get better."

Actually, the Knicks expect Lin's numbers to drop once the regulars are back. But they have a chance to keep the wins going, with three straight games against sub-.500 teams this week.

Stoudemire felt things were turning in the first game Lin got meaningful minutes, when plays were getting made that weren't for the first month and three point guards of the season. So it's no wonder Lin is just as popular inside the locker room as he seems to be everywhere else.

"I think because we were all looking for answers from the point guard position so far this season and we tried every point guard that we had," Stoudemire said. "And we saved the best for last I guess."

Woods goes from inevitable to unpredictable



PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Phil Mickelson has

beaten Tiger Woods the last five times they have played together in the final round.

But never like this.

This was a pounding at Pebble Beach. Mickelson shot a 64 on a day when no one else could do better than 67. Woods had a 75 on a day when only four players—none of whom were in contention—shot worse.

One guy left with the trophy, the other guy left with a lot to think about.

The relevance of Sunday is still to be determined.

The real measure of Woods most likely won't happen until the Masters, which is just two months away. There is no doubt that Woods is more capable now than he has been since he was derailed from the fast track by chaos in his personal life and leg injuries. He has contended on Sunday in his last four tournaments, and that's not an accident.

It's the final rounds that are troubling.

In the middle of his last swing change in 2004, Woods had the 36-hole lead in consecutive weeks at Quail Hollow and the Byron Nelson Championship, stumbled badly on Saturday and then came up one shot short of a playoff on Sunday.

The last two tournaments, however, he hasn't even been close.

In his 2012 debut at the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship, he was tied with Robert Rock of England going into the final round and couldn't break par. Two weeks later at Pebble Beach, where he started the last day four shots behind Charlie



Tiger Woods tips his cap after finishing on the 18th hole of the Pebble Beach golf links during the final round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012, in Pebble Beach, Calif. AP

Wi, he was one shot out of the lead while standing in the fairway on the par-5 sixth hole. Woods wound up nine shots out of the lead in a tie for 15th.

The guy dressed in red suddenly has a case of the Sunday blues.

He attributed his play in Abu Dhabi to not giving himself enough good looks at birdie. He attributed his downfall at Pebble Beach to not being able to make anything. Woods missed five putts in the 5-foot range.

Such performances used to be

an exception, not a trend.

In those five tournaments where Mickelson has beaten Woods while paired with him in the final round, Lefty has won three times. So maybe there's some truth to the notion that Woods brings out the best in Mickelson, or that Mickelson brings out the worst in Woods.

Rivalries are made out of moments like this.

In Woods' benchmark season of 2000, Mickelson stopped his six-tournament winning streak at Torrey Pines and denied Woods a 10-win season on the PGA Tour by rallying to beat him at the Tour Championship.

The last time they played together on a Sunday when both had a chance to win was in Shanghai in 2009 for the HSBC Champions. Mickelson had a two-shot lead over Woods going into the final round, and Woods had to birdie the ninth hole to avoid shooting 40 on the front nine. He was never a factor. And that's when Woods was at the top of his game.

As much as Mickelson enjoyed this latest snapshot, he was quick to observe the big picture.

"Although I feel like he brings out the best in me, it's only been the past five years," Mickelson said. "Before, I got spanked pretty good. Let's not forget the big picture here. I've been beat up."

Mickelson won for the 40th time in his career, only the ninth player to do that in PGA Tour history. Woods has 71 wins. Mickelson is a four-time major champion. Woods has been stuck on 14 since 2008.

But an 11-shot difference between them on a Sunday? That's an attention-grabber, especially considering Woods'

performance indicated he was getting close, and Mickelson's recent record caused him to start doubting himself.

Woods drives so much interest in golf that no one is a great victim of a rush to judgment. Remember, it was in 2001 when a golf magazine printed the headline, "What Wrong With Tiger?" on its cover after he failed to win the first five tournaments he played. Woods won the next three, including the Masters, which made him the only player to hold all four professional majors at the same time.

Even so, there is something that gives one pause about Pebble Beach.

Woods sounded indignant when someone brought up the fact his last PGA Tour victory was in September 2009, and his last win against a full field was two months after that in the Australian Masters, right before the Thanksgiving night fiasco that shattered his image and moved golf from sports pages to gossip magazines.

"People think it's a couple of years, but I just won a couple months ago," he said of the Chevron World Challenge, where he birdied his last two holes for a one-shot win over Zach Johnson against an 18-man field. "I look at that as a win. And I'm just kind of off to my first start of the year here in the States, and I made some good improvement this week."

Then again, that win at Sher-

wood was inches away from being different. Woods had control of the final round early, let it get away, and could only watch as Johnson had an 18-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole that looked all the way until it wasn't. That would have given him a two-shot lead. Instead, Woods knocked in his 15-footer to tie, then won with a 6-foot putt on the end.

If Johnson's putt goes in, the hole undoubtedly shrinks for Woods' birdie attempt.

That's how it looked for him Sunday at Pebble Beach during the opening seven-hole stretch, fertile ground for comebacks. His 5-foot birdie on the second hole missed the cup by 2 inches, which, on the PGA Tour level, is close to a mile. He was grinding to match Mickelson's birdie on the fifth, and he three-putted from 18 feet on the seventh, missing his par putt from inside 3 feet.

Woods near the lead on Sunday used to bring a sense of inevitability. Now he is about unpredictability. He has said he is at peace with himself, and he looks calm and confident while working his way into contention. Sunday is hard work. There is a feeling watching him that Woods is trying too hard, that every putt means too much.

Perhaps that will change.

It used to be that each win gave him even more confidence. Now, one has to wonder if each Sunday brings more doubt.

Yankees, Pirates progressing toward Burnett deal



NEW YORK (AP)—The New York

Yankees and Pirates have made progress toward a trade that would send much-maligned pitcher A.J. Burnett to Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh would pay at least \$10 million of the \$33 million Burnett is owed in the final two seasons of his \$82.5 million, five-year contract, a person familiar with the discussions said Monday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because talks are ongoing.

The exact amount of money involved in the trade depends on the quality of the prospects the Yankees would receive, the person said.

Burnett, a 35-year-old right-hander, has struggled to a 34-35 record and 4.79 ERA during three seasons with New York and went 11-11 with a 5.15 ERA last year. His average of 3.98 walks per nine innings is second

in the AL and fifth in the majors during that span among pitchers with 400 or more innings, according to STATS LLC.

New York appears to have an excess of starting pitchers after acquiring Michael Pineda from Seattle in a trade and agreeing to a one-year deal with free agent Hiroki Kuroda. They join holdovers CC Sabathia, Ivan Nova, Phil Hughes and Freddy Garcia.

In addition, the Yankees think highly of four starting prospects, right-handers Adam Warren, Dellin Betances and David Phelps, and left-hander Manny Banuelos. All are likely to start the season at Triple-A.

Burnett would join a rotation that includes newly signed Erik Bedard and returnees James McDonald, Kevin Correia and Jeff Karstens. Charlie Morton is recovering from hip surgery in October. When Morton is available, Karstens could return to the bullpen and spot starts.

Steelers GM says no decision made on Hines Ward



PITTSBURGH

(AP)—The Pittsburgh Steelers aren't ready to part ways with Hines Ward just yet.

General manager Kevin Colbert said Monday the team has had "internal discussions" on what to do with the franchise's all-time leading receiver, but no decision has been made.

NFL.com reported last week the Steelers were planning to release the 35-year-old Ward, who took on a diminished role last season behind Mike Wallace, Antonio Brown and Em-

manuel Sanders.

Ward posted on his Facebook page Saturday that he's willing to restructure his contract in hopes of finishing his career with Pittsburgh. Ward has two years remaining on his current deal at a cost of about \$4 million a season.

The 14-year veteran became the eighth player in NFL history to reach 1,000 career receptions last season.

Cornerback Ike Taylor and linebackers Lawrence Timmons and LaMarr Woodley have agreed to restructure their contracts in hopes of getting under

the salary cap.

Colbert said the team is in the middle of making free agent evaluations and won't make any move on Ward until that process is complete.

"That will give us an idea about what else is out there, where we stand with restructuring contracts and what we will have to do as far as possibly terminating people, both immediately and after the fact if we decide we want to add some players (in free agency)," Colbert said.

Ward is coming off a season in which he finished with 46 receptions for 381 yards and

two touchdowns, his lowest totals in each category since he was a rookie in 1998. The 2006 Super Bowl MVP—who also won "Dancing With the Stars" last spring—is one of only two receivers in league history to reach 1,000 receptions and win at least two Super Bowls.

Colbert also said Monday injured running back Rashard Mendenhall likely will start the 2012 season on the physically unable to perform list while he continues to rehab the torn ACL in his right knee from the regular-season finale against Cleveland.

Bengals LB Maualuga charged with assault in Ohio

CINCINNATI (AP)—Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Rey Maualuga (mow-uh-LOO'-guh) has been charged with assault stemming from a downtown Cincinnati bar incident. Police cited the 25-year-old Maualuga with the misde-

meanor count on Friday after investigating allegations by a bar employee that Maualuga punched him in the face early Sunday morning. Maualuga's arraignment is scheduled for Feb. 17. No attorney was listed for him. Bengals spokesman Jack Brennan said the club doesn't comment on unresolved legal matters. The

former Southern Cal star was fined by the NFL two game checks and part of his signing bonus in 2010 after he pleaded guilty to drunken driving charges in northern Kentucky. In that case, he got a suspended seven-day jail sentence, had his driver's license suspended for 90 days, and was sent to an alcohol/drug program.

NFL BRIEFS

Former receiver Freddie Solomon dies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Freddie Solomon, the former Miami Dolphins and 49ers wide receiver who became known as "Fabulous Freddie" and committed himself to community service, has died. He was 59. The 49ers announced the passing of Solomon, who lived in Florida

and had battled cancer over the past year. He played on the first of the franchise's four Super Bowl championship teams in the 1980s during an 11-year NFL career. "The 49ers lost a member of our family today. We'll miss you, Freddie Solomon," CEO Jed York posted on his Twitter account on Monday. The Dolphins selected Solomon in the second

round of the 1975 draft out of the University of Tampa. He spent his first three NFL seasons with Miami and his final eight in San Francisco, finishing with 371 receptions for 5,846 yards and 48 touchdowns in 371 games. His 43 TD catches with the Niners are tied for sixth most in team history. Solomon was born on Jan. 11, 1953, in Sumter, S.C.

D2Pats seize lead in Islander Tag Team 8-Ball



D2Pat's Pat Taitano and Pat Cepeda are the current frontrunners of the 19th Hole Bar & Grill's Islander Tag-Team 8-Ball Tournament after the conclusion of last weekend's matchups.

This past weekend marked the halfway point of the event and featured D2Pats notching their second consecutive sweep to pull into first place all alone in the standings with 19 points.

D2Pats skunked Oneshot's Ron Chisato and Ed Suzuki, 6-0, last Feb. 4 and blanked IDK's Gus Taitano and Ken Phillips last Saturday.

Just a point behind the leaders in second place comes Elaus' Taylor Watanabe and

John Mongami, who bagged a pair of 5-1 victories in the past two weeks.

Elaus toppled YNOT's Nolas Kaliga and Ben Norita back on Feb. 4 and then went through IDC's Norman Tenorio and Quinton Ngrarios on Sunday.

Meanwhile, there is a three-way tie for third place between former leader Oneshot, YNOT and Tasi's Oscar Sablan and Ed Blas; the three teams have 15 points each after completion of three rounds of matches.

IDC and IDK both have 12 points thus far, while Leonize79's Leonard Sablan and Nizer Masayas are bringing up the rear with seven; eight teams make up the field.

Other results from the weekend included YNOT defeating

Leonize79, 5-3, on Saturday, as did Tasi over Oneshot on Sunday.

This Saturday, D2Pats take on Leonize79 at 7:30pm followed by Elaus taking on IDK at 9:30pm. Then on Sunday, Oneshot clashes with IDC at 7:30pm with YNOT squaring off against Tasi at 9:30pm.

Like the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League, the Islander Tag Team Tournament follows official BCA rules except that sinking the 8-ball on the break is a win.

Each team plays two singles and one doubles match every week. Doubles players continue shooting until they miss or scratch; players don't alternate shots. Scoring is determined

by total games won.

If, for instance, a team wins two games and its opponent wins one, two points are scored for the team and one point goes to the opponent.

Formerly known as the USS Peleliu Club, the 19th Hole Bar relocated last fall. They offer darts, billiards, and free wi-fi Internet in a refreshing sports bar setting with a friendly wait staff. The 19th Hole's hours of operation runs daily from 4pm to 2am. They also offer live music entertainment from the Rock Islanders band every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night and \$1 beers, daily, until 6:30pm.

For more information, contact Rose Phillips at 788-3913. *(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)*

GCA

From Page 28

Meanwhile, Kagman High School downed Saipan International School, 49-42, in the junior varsity feature.

The win evened the KHS Junior Ayuyus' card to 2-2, while winless SIS endured its fourth straight defeat.

In the varsity match, GCA built an early 19-14 lead off of 12 points by Moon Bin Hong in the opening 10 minutes. Hong caught fire out of the gate and scored the first 10 points for the Eagles.

MCS' Angelo Montes and Aaron Pamintuan teamed up for 10 markers to keep the Knights hot on the trail.

Then GCA's defense contained MCS to just nine points in the second quarter, as the Eagles stretched out a 34-23 margin at halftime; five different GCA players accounted for the offense in the push.

MCS did not back down, however, and battled back in the third quarter. The Knights pulled within a couple baskets with just two minutes left in the period, but GCA recovered and maintained a 47-40 cushion heading into crunch time.

MCS' Thomas Kautz stepped up with eight big points in the rally.

In the end, MCS could not make enough stops and instead had two of its players foul out in the process.

To make matters worse MCS point guard Reynald Cabaltica collided with GCA's Dae Min Jeon and had to leave the game due to injury.

Notably, Jeon is a new addition to the Eagles roster and was well received by his teammates.

He led two other teammates in double digits with 14 points,

while Cabaltica and Montes finished with 13 apiece.

In the juniors duel, KHS managed a slim 10-8 edge in the first quarter before pulling away, 21-13, at halftime. The Ayuyus did a good job sharing the ball as seven different players chipped in on offense.

SIS' Chris Cepeda was contained to just two baskets in the first half. He came out after the break and managed a handful of early checks, but the Geckos could not stop the bleeding on defense.

SIS mounted a 21-point rally in the clutch, but came up short once again in the end. The Geckos' Cepeda and Jack Liu tallied seven points in the last-ditch effort.

KHS' Jonathan and Jesse Santos combined for 23 points, while SIS' Cepeda managed 16 in yet another hard fought loss.

The season continues at 4pm tomorrow with a junior pairing between SIS and top-ranked MHS (4-0), followed by the KHS varsity Ayuyus (3-1) taking on MCS.

GCDC-CWA U17 girls basketball tournament this Friday



The Garapan Community Development Center has teamed up with the CNMI Women's Association in hosting on a double-elimination girls basketball tournament open to female players up to 17 years old, this Friday starting at 5:30pm at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Up to six teams are expected to turn out and slots

are still available; there is no entrance fee.

The five-on-five full court event aims to promote the overall development of young female players.

"Most activities and events are provided for boys, but we also want to promote an active lifestyle through sports for girls in the community. We have noticed a number of female players that show interest in the game of bas-

ketball and feel that it is just as important to support their development," said GCDC's Joe Diaz.

The event serves as good practice for a number of up and coming female players that very well be representing the CNMI in the highly anticipated Micronesian Basketball Tournament, which Saipan will be hosting this May.

This Friday marks the first part of a two-round event.

The tournament will conclude on the following Friday, Feb. 24, after which trophies will be presented to the Top 2 finishers.

The timely presence of all teams are requested as this Friday's opening matchups will be randomly determined.

To register or for more information, stop by the GCDC office located behind the Garapan court or call 233-8978. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

SCS

From Page 28

two triples and big man Glenn Aquino hitting his third trey of the night. With a limited manpower, Navy Hill had difficulties reacting to SCS' good ball rotation, leaving the latter open either for long jumpers or underneath baskets. By the end of the first half, SCS' lead ballooned to 16, 45-29.

Seeing that the game was almost in the bag, SCS relaxed a bit in the first five minutes of the third period, allowing Navy Hill to move within nine, 40-49. Berline and Bar-

rios teamed up in Navy Hill's 11-4 rally at the start of second half, combining for nine markers. However, Navy Hill failed to keep its momentum in the last five minutes of the third, while SCS closed out the quarter with a 15-4 scoring to pad the lead to 20, 64-44.

With their other teammates still a no-show in the fourth and final quarter, fatigue finally took its toll on Berline and company, while SCS kept pushing the game up for the easy victory.

SCS had four players scoring in double figures with Leo Galarse leading the way with 15 points. Mina finished with

14, while Aquino and Jun Pantaleon added 13 each. Berline top-scored for Navy Hill with 23, Barrios chipped in 13, and Tomokane and Ito contributed 11 and 10, respectively. Montgomery had a quiet eight points.

With the victory, SCS joins defending champion Blue Haus and Mobil Smiles in the win column. Navy Hill, on the other hand, is in the company of opening day losers QQ Rent A Car and Smart Cagers.

Meanwhile, Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe led the rained-out game against Blue Haus Hite, 28-25. The game was halted after the first half and will resume on a later date.

Kae Bernardo scored 11 points in the first 20 minutes of play to pace Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe, while big men Rex Yabut and Mike Cruz combined for 11 markers. Ivan Devero was on top of the scoring list for Blue Haus Hite with 10.

SCS Heavy Equipment 83 – Galarse 15, Mina 14, Aquino 13, Pantaleon 13, Tamayo 8, Diaz 6, Guiang 4, Echavez 2, Ritual 2, Tobias 2.

Navy Hill Gunners 62 – Berline 23, Barrios 13, Tomokane 11, Ito 10, Montgomery 8.

Scoring by quarters: 20 10, 45-29, 64-44, 83-62.

11 SURVIVE

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Abragan, Steve Nutting-Alex Park, and George Poquiz-Tony Atalig.

The team of Poquiz and Atalig was one of the three pairs who played extended games in the first round mixed up doubles last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. They won the opening set, 6-2, but failed to wrap up the game early when Mihoko Tuttle and Gillian Villagomez recovered in the second set with a 7-5 win. Poquiz and Atalig then regrouped in the deciding set and prevailed, 6-4, to advance to the Round of 32 against the second-ranked pair of Carl Dela Cruz and Emily Jones, who

drew a bye in the lower half of the 64-player draw.

Also notching three-set wins in the first round were Blackburn and Lim and Villanueva and Izuka of the top half of the draw. Blackburn and Lim were paired against Christian Miller and Asia Raulerson and pulled off a 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 triumph to move into the Round of 32 versus top seeds Jeff Race and Michael Ren. Villanueva and Izuka outclassed Tommy Choi and Rob Schorr, 7-5, 3-6, 7-6, to barge into the second round against the duo of Isabel Heras and Nakajima.

Meanwhile, the eight other opening round matches last Saturday were decided after only two sets. In the upper half of the draw, Malai and Tsukagoshi swept Primo Po and Haruya eda, 6-4, 7-6, to arrange a second round

duel against Jake Lee and Cole Chambers, while Rafael Jones and Catherine Atalig had a free pass to the next round and were set to face Jodel Fernandez and Peter Deng last Sunday after a win via walkover against Theecel Minor and Satoshi Ohtsu. Demapan and Hwang completed the Round of 32 cast in the top bracket and were slated to duel Daniel Park and Steven Goodwin after beating Gary Ramsey and Aditya Rai, 6-4, 7-5.

In the lower bracket, Ishikawa and Liza Atalig notched a Round of 32 seat after shutting out Angelo Jones and Ruth Park, 6-0, 6-0. A.J. Hudkins and Lopez also had an easy first round assignment, cruising past Negahr Rastguiy and Eugene Park, 6-1, 6-3. Ishikawa and Liza

Atalig and A.J. Hudkins and Lopez were scheduled to collide against Chris Cajigan and Mimi Sakano and Sakura Imaaya and R.J. Aquino, respectively, last Sunday.

Rounding out the Round of 32 cast in the lower half of the draw were Amami Sakano and Abragan and Steve Nutting and Alex Park, who topped Nathan Nutting and Anna Calvert, 6-1, 6-2, and Lucas Nutting and Logan Mister, 6-1, 6-0, respectively. Steve Nutting and Alex Park's next foes were Colim Ramsey and Ken Song, while Abragan and Amami Sakano were set to challenge Seiya Eda and Tania Tan last Sunday. Sunday's games were unavailable at press time and will be released by Friday before Week 2 of the Tennis Classic is played this weekend.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	20	9	.690	—
Boston	15	12	.556	4
New York	13	15	.464	6 1/2
Toronto	9	20	.310	11
New Jersey	8	21	.276	12

Southeast Division

Miami	22	7	.759	—
Atlanta	18	10	.643	3 1/2
Orlando	18	11	.621	4
Washington	6	22	.214	15 1/2
Charlotte	3	25	.107	18 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	23	7	.767	—
Indiana	17	10	.630	4 1/2
Milwaukee	12	16	.429	10
Cleveland	10	16	.385	11
Detroit	8	21	.276	14 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	19	9	.679	—
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Dallas

Houston

Memphis

New Orleans

18	11	.621	1 1/2
16	12	.571	3
14	14	.500	5
5	23	.179	14

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	21	6	.778	—
Denver	16	12	.571	5 1/2
Portland	15	13	.536	6 1/2
Utah	14	13	.519	7
Minnesota	13	16	.448	9

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	17	9	.654	—
L.A. Lakers	16	12	.571	2
Golden State	11	14	.440	5 1/2
Phoenix	12	16	.429	6
Sacramento	10	17	.370	7 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 98, Charlotte 89

Orlando 102, Minnesota 89

New Orleans 86, Utah 80

Miami 114, Milwaukee 96

Dallas 96, L.A. Clippers 92

Golden State 102, Phoenix 96

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GCDC Family-Fun-Athon

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Christine Fidelino pops up a serve for her teammate to set during the Garapan Community Development Center Family-Fun-Athon held last Jan. 28 in Garapan.



House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumorro Felicidad Ogumorro, left, and Rollers head coach Joe Diaz, far right, present, from second left, Kristian Itaas, C.J. Morales, and Angelo Factor with their first place prizes in the IT&E X-Mas Friendly Youth Basketball Tournament U12 division held in late December 2011.



Wilfredo Francisco keeps his eye on the ball as his teammates watch nervously in the background.



Jethro Cruz leaps up to bump a return to his teammate.



House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumorro, left, and Rollers head coach Joe Diaz, far right, present John Tam, second left, and J.P. Cruz with their first place prizes in the IT&E X-Mas Friendly Youth Basketball Tournament U10 division held in late December 2011.



John Tam delivers an underhand serve.



Mike Espinosa calls dibs for a volley attempt.



Mike Fidelino fires an overhand serve.



Sam Darag bats over the ball at the peak of his jump.

Activity Schedule for February 15, 2012

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
(Morning practices)

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
(Evening practices)

There are no scheduled events.

2012 Men's B Futsal League

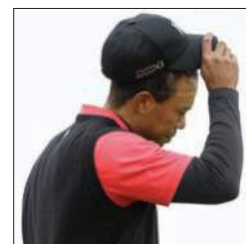
There are no scheduled events.



76ers send Bobcats to 15th straight loss

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Woods goes from inevitable to unpredictable

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Wong upbeat as NCAA tourney nears end

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI swimmer Rezne Wong is aiming to finish the 2011-2012 NCCA season with a bang as he competes in the Mountain Pacific Swimming Federation Swimming Championships starting tomorrow in California.

"Our last NCAA competition will be the MPSF Swimming Championships. We will be competing against eight other schools. I will be swimming the 200 IM, the 400 IM, and the 200 breaststroke," said the junior member of the University of Hawaii-Manoa swim team when asked for updates about his competitions.

The MPSF meet will run from Feb. 15 to 18 at the East Los Angeles Community College, in Monterey Park and will also feature swimmers from Air Force, BYU Cal State (Bakersfield), UNLV, North Dakota, Pacific, Seattle, and Wyoming.

"It will be two times as competitive as last year, as we had just three other teams to compete against. This year it is eight other teams, in a smaller,

crowded pool, and with much more competitors. It will be much different, but we will give every race everything we got. We have been training hard and we hope to have a Top 3 finish, if not first. UNLV, Air Force, and BYU are the Top 3 contenders," the 2010 Micronesian Games Most Outstanding Male Athlete said.

"My personal goals are to at least make the Top 16 in all three of my events, if not the Top 8. To be in the Top 8 will be spectacular, given the amount of talented athletes from every school. My goal times are 1:49, 3:59, and 1:59 respectively," Wong added.

Wong's personal best in the 200yard IM is 1:51.02 (2/23/2011), while his PBs in the 400yd individual medley and 200yd breaststroke read



Wong

at 4:03.22 (2/23/2011) and 2:01.92 (2/23/2011), respectively.

Before the tournament in California, Wong and company hosted Wisconsin and won the pre-conference meet. He placed second in the 200yd breaststroke (2:05.64), third in the 200yd medley relay (1:34.13), and fourth in the 100yd breaststroke (59.51 seconds).



SCS crushes depleted Navy Hill Gunners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Last season's semi-finalist SCS Heavy Equipment got off to strong start in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity Basketball Invitational Friendship League, walloping the Navy Hill Gunners, 83-62, in the lone game completed last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

SCS, which lost to eventual champion Blue Haus in the semifinals of the inaugural DLX league, 52-66, capitalized on a depleted Navy Hill crew to cruise to the 21-point win. Navy Hill had only five players available for the second match of the night.

Despite playing without relief, Bruce Berline, J.R. Barrios, Todd Montgomery, Joe Ito, and Chris Tomokane managed to stay in the game after the first period, as they were down by only 10 points, 10-20.

SCS knocked in three early triples in the opening canto to open a double-digit lead. In the second quarter, SCS continued to hit their shots from downtown with Jessie Mina making

See SCS on Page 26

SCS Heavy Equipment's Leo Galarse glides toward the basket against Navy Hill Gunners' J.R. Barrios during the second quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

GCA soars past MCS in boys caging, 66-56

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Grace Christian Academy Eagles outlasted the Knights of Mount Carmel School, 66-56, in Monday's

Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys varsity basketball match held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The win improved GCA's win-loss record to 2-5, while MCS remained winless after six tries.

See GCA on Page 26



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Grace Christian Academy's Angelo Salas slashes through the lane in Monday's MISO boys varsity basketball game against Saipan International School at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

11 survive mixed up doubles' first round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Eleven pairs won their opening games in the mixed up doubles event in the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

The list include the tandems of

Mark Blackburn-Daniel Lim, Rafael Jones-Catherine Atalig, Abe Malai-Ami Tsukagoshi, Mei Demapan-Sally Hwang, Moris Villanueva-Clayton Izuka, Alina Ishikawa-Liza Atalig, Mikayla Lopez-A.J. Hudkins, Kinumi Taniguchi-Malika Miyawaki, Amami Sakano-Joshua

See 11 SURVIVE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tony Atalig, left, makes a baseline return while teammate George Poquiz looks on during their first round game against Gillian Villagomez and Mihoko Tuttle in the mixed up doubles of the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

